Fifty years ago, this magazine was born. It wasn’t the only thing that made headlines.

Farewell, MTL

Meet Interim President Richard Saller
I needed someone to look after my interests.
I found someone to help build my legacy.

My jewelry was never an investment. It was always just for me. I didn’t even feel comfortable showing it to my kids. But ever since my trusted advisor referred me to Kim, I’d felt like I could talk to her about anything. We would sit and talk about which of my kids might like which piece. We found some gems among the gems, in terms of value. But the biggest thing I took away from our chats was the realization that the actual treasure I was passing on to my kids was the memories attached to the jewelry. A big picture like that only emerges when you focus on the little things.

— Jordyn, Los Angeles
28 Transition at the Top
After rolling out a Long-Range Vision and guiding Stanford through the COVID-19 pandemic, President Marc Tessier-Lavigne stepped down in August. Interim president Richard Saller discusses how he’ll shepherd the university while the Board of Trustees selects a new leader.

34 Start the Presses
STANFORD is 50! It turns out we’re not the only one. So are the Native American Cultural Center, Structured Liberal Education, and Stanford’s academic freedom policy, to name a few. Walk with us down memory lane as we sample some of the wonders and horrors of the 1973–74 academic year on the Farm, and in the world around.

54 California’s Charge
The world’s fifth-largest economy is going big in its fight to zero out its greenhouse gas emissions. A key element of the plan: move to 100 percent carbon-free electricity by 2045. Four experts talk with STANFORD about realizing the goal lawmakers called “bold and achievable.”
Meet Ecy King
A novel note-taking method from a student of eclectic interests.

22
Alone, Together
Hesitant to attend Reunion Homecoming after her husband’s death, Susie Colby, ’87, draws up a novel plan.

26
You Art What You Eat
Imagine Vincent van Gogh’s Vase with Twelve Sunflowers but with Chinese pineapple buns in place of the flora. That’s one way photographer Stephanie Shih, MA ’10, PhD ’14, is reinventing Europe’s still-life tradition.

Digital
NOW
AT STANFORDMAG.ORG
Moneyball: A primer on the changes in college athletics

Reunion refresher: How to talk to strangers

Video of Ecy King, ’23

ALL RIGHT NOW
12  Camp Cupid
14  Righting water woes
16  From high school to school board
18  Sweetheart deals

DEPARTMENTS
4  Dialogue
6  Editor’s Note
Golden eye
62  Biblio File
No pain, no gain?
65  Farewells
71  Classifieds
Voted best retirement community 2 years in a row. If you’re 65+, you can enjoy exceptional healthcare, attentive service and 3 delicious meals daily, as well as a fitness center and acres of lush gardens with a pool and putting green. For a tour of our newly renovated campus, call Angie at 1-800-544-5546 or visit cvmanor.com

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CARMEL VALLEY MANOR
CELEBRATING 60 YEARS
Did Somebody Say McDonald?

Our July cover story chronicled the life of Stanford’s first Black administrator.

I always love STANFORD but this article is out of this world. I would have loved to have known who Sam McDonald was when I was practicing for four years at the Stanford track (at the time a dirt track) to become a sub-three-hour marathon runner. I hope that with this article, future students will know of Sam’s story.

Pekka Hietala, MA ’85, PhD ’87
Espoo, Finland

Sam McDonald died in 1957. I enrolled at Stanford in 1959, barely two years later. My time on the Farm included four years as a sportswriter on the Stanford Daily, two volumes as sports editor, and two years as a student employee of the athletic department. In all that time, I doubt I ever heard two words about Sam McDonald. That is a damned shame. His story should be a more celebrated part of Stanford history.

Glenn Alford, ’63
Pocatello, Idaho

I attended a Stanford football game in the late 1940s when I was a student at Paly High (Class of ’50). At that game, a Black man took the “stage” and led the students in “Give ‘em the Axe.” The Stanford students responded with great affection and enormous volume, and I knew he was some sort of hero. I suspect I witnessed Mr. McDonald in action that day, and I now have “the rest of the story.”

Robert Steinbach, MS ’62
San Diego, California

I graduated in 1940 while Ray Lyman Wilbur (Class of 1896, MA ’97, MD ’99) was president and McDonald was already a celebrity. He was certainly a remarkable person who attained success through hard work and determined effort and did not let so many roadblocks stop him. This was a great article and I appreciate what you have accomplished.

George A. Jedenoff, ’40, MBA ’42
Orinda, California

I retired two years ago and joined a wonderful hiking group. We hike all over the Bay Area with regular jaunts through San Mateo County open space. Without a doubt, Sam McDonald’s beautiful hiking trails are my favorite. They offer a spiritualism and raw peace that is second to none. I am so happy to know more about the man who made these trails available to all. What an incredible life, what an incredible man.

Andrea Mirenda
Mountain View, California

I grew up on the campus beginning in 1947. Although I never saw Mr. McDonald, I heartily remember some of the places, fields, etc., with which he was associated. When the news at Stanford is not always the greatest recently, your article highlights a shining era in Stanford history, and I congratulate you for writing and researching it.

Carl B. Schmidt, ’63
Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania

The Man Behind the Voice
In July, we shared the story of associate professor of neurobiology and hit podcaster Andrew Huberman.

The Huberman profile stands out. Hearing his rough start as a young adult gives me hope for other bright kids who take a different, often awkward path that can be scary for us parents. Huberman truly inspires.

Karen Edwards, ’85
Palo Alto, California

I’ve been listening to the Huberman Lab podcast since 2021 and have learned so much from him. I’d heard whispers of his background, but assumed he’d always been a put-together, typical man. As someone who also climbed out of some holes with the help of a talented therapist, it means a lot to understand his success story, and inspires me (and I’m sure many like me) to keep going, despite my past.

Sarah Saweikis
Austin, Texas

Speaking Up
Our July issue included a profile of broadcaster Alyssa London, ’12, who works to increase media coverage of Native issues.

She’s had to face criticism, skepticism, and worse, but she can be proud of what she has given to young First Nations children: her story, and what can be their story. I loved her story, and I loved your last paragraph.

Tom Payne, ’76
Seattle, Washington
Fall In
A July Q&A with undersecretary of the Army Gabe Camarillo, JD ’02, explored recruitment in the modern era.

The article on Camarillo and the challenges facing the all-volunteer Army minted a discussion of how the draft, while inconvenient and frightening to those of us subject to it (I was given a 4F in 1971, which allowed me to be JD ’74 rather than RIP ’72), had a beneficial collateral consequence: People of every socioeconomic status knew people who were fighting and dying.

Part of the reason that the country turned against the war was that parents, rich, poor, and middle class, were personally touched by young people whom they knew returning from Vietnam maimed, physically and mentally, or not returning at all.

With a mercenary army, there is no similar check on military adventurism. Does that mean that we should return to a draft? Maybe not. But having a professional military has consequences that we need to recognize.

Andrew E. Rubin, JD ’74
Los Angeles, California

A Commitment to Free Expression
In the July President’s Column, Marc Tessier-Lavigne explained university initiatives meant to strengthen the culture of academic freedom at Stanford.

The column doesn’t mention that faculty tenure is supposed to protect controversial faculty. Why else would we take the extraordinary step of giving them a guaranteed position? Sadly, the cancel culture that has come to dominate Stanford and other elite universities came originally from faculty attempting to cancel their colleagues. And, of course, faculty will only support tenure for left-leaning academics, creating a monolithic point of view where diverse viewpoints are not welcome. The students have picked up the cancel culture from the faculty and now use it against faculty—a delicious irony—and other students. Our next president should take the lead in setting a rule that faculty who do not respect the views of other faculty or students or who seek to cancel them will lose their tenure. And tenure should only be granted to faculty who demonstrate that they teach without an ideological bias and do not seek to cancel viewpoints that are not consistent with a woke ideology. When we see that, we’ll know that Stanford is serious about freedom of inquiry and a diversity of viewpoints.

Chuck Ludlam, ’67
Washington, D.C.

Snips and Snails
In July, Brad Blake, ’80, MBA ’85, wrote about how an excursion with his toddler grandson helped him learn to live in the moment.

Best article I have read since graduating. Summed up the entire world in a few paragraphs. At least how the world should be. Really needed to read it—watching too much TV news that ruins our view of humanity and the planet.

Mike Silva, MS ’86
Santa Ana, California

Liberating
A photograph of George Segal’s Gay Liberation prompted alumni memories.

This statue was vandalized at Stanford in 1994. The faculty response to that event—outrage—showed me that I was going to be OK being myself at Stanford.

BJ Fogg, MA ’95, PhD ’97
Past Is Prologue
Why we embarked on a history project.

IT STARTED WITH OUR OWN BIRTHDAY. Then we got an email letting us know that the venerable frosh humanities program known as SLE—and that’s pronounced “slee,” not “essel-ee”—also celebrates a half-century this academic year (page 40). Oh, and we’d long been planning to cover the 50th anniversary of the closure of the Nursing School (page 44). A cover package began to take shape.

Everywhere we turned, someone knew of a golden opportunity. “Wasn’t Skylab in orbit then?” my boss wondered aloud. Sure was, and five seconds of web research revealed that Owen Garriott, MS ’57, PhD ’60, was on board (page 43). During our reporting, we discovered even bigger milestones: The electrical engineering professor was Stanford’s first astronaut.

There were major events with Stanford connections: Professor of Spanish and Portuguese Fernando Alegría witnessed the September coup in Chile; the country’s former cultural attaché to Washington, D.C., escaped while disguised as either a nun or a priest (page 42). Watergate special prosecutor Archibald Cox, who was fired in November, would give the university’s commencement address in June (page 52). Chinese-speaking students who were receiving an inadequate education in San Francisco public schools took their case to the U.S. Supreme Court and won, thanks to a recent graduate of Stanford Law School (page 48).

There were happenings that changed the face of the Farm: B. Gerald Cantor committed Rodin sculptures to Stanford (page 38). The athletics pool complex opened (page 39). The Native American Cultural Center and the Gay People’s Union each found a home (pages 42 and 45).

To put together a commemorative story package that gives you the feel of the academic year of our founding, we combed the 1973–74 Stanford Daily, the Campus Report faculty/staff newspaper, and countless timelines. This was a full team effort, aided and abetted by freelancers Rebecca Beyer and Christine Foster.

Such research can remind us that we are part of the long arc of history, one in which global problems such as inflation, war, and truth in media are cyclical or even perennial, and higher-education concerns such as student debt, mental health, and representation often persist. There was an energy crisis then; there is a different sort of energy crisis now (for a related story, see page 54). And yet some things from 1973–74 are difficult to imagine. There was a palpable feeling of fear on campus, given that four members of the Stanford community had been murdered on university land in the span of 18 months (page 46). At the start of the year, the university’s police force was all male (page 49). A start-up rival league to the NFL managed to draft one Stanford player, then went belly-up in stranger-than-fiction fashion (page 49).

When it became clear that we would be covering both our 50th birthday and the university’s leadership transition (page 28) in the same issue, we paused for a beat. Then we pressed on. Looking at where we’ve been helps us recognize that Stanford can weather change, and yet remain resilient and enduring. ■

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Save yourself a trip. Visit your doctor by video.

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“People knew me as the girl who would pause and be like, ‘Guys, we’re at Stanford!’ I still do that sometimes. Never before had I experienced so much intellectual candy, social candy.”
"My interest in philosophy probably came from my dad—we’d have a lot of philosophical conversations at the dinner table. This idea of jumping into a perspective, exploring it but not accepting it, was really interesting to me.

"With math, I liked the ability to explore systems and different ways of doing the same thing. Sometimes I would finish my math homework and then figure out five other ways to solve the same problem. And for English, the ability to play around with words is really fun. I would write these very bad stories and poems. I liked those two parts of my brain being activated.

"Coming from the Central Valley, I could probably count the number of Sierra Leonean people [there] on my fingers, and that was mostly my family. Going to Stanford, all of a sudden I was exposed to the whole [African] diaspora. My ideas on culture—on what is Blackness, what does it mean to be African, what does it mean to be African American—really shifted.

"The characters in *Bit by Bit*, they’re these embodiments of computer science concepts like debugging or testing your code. When I was writing it, I was deliberately thinking, OK, what are my experiences? And so I’m like, [one character] is going to be this English woman of African descent who’s a bit pompous. Or there’s Mama If, who has this hair wrap—this African auntie stereotype.

"If I can represent myself and the diversity of experiences I’ve had, that can serve as a form of representation."

ECY KING doesn’t like to put herself in a box. She does, however, put everything else into nine squares—the late-night conversation she had with her friends, notes for her CS 142 final, absent-minded doodles. The nine squares—drawn on a piece of paper like a large tic-tac-toe board—are called a fractal grid. The center square holds the main topic of the page, and the surrounding squares contain related ideas. It’s a note-taking method invented by her father that she says is now used in university classrooms across his home country, Sierra Leone.

“I’m obsessed with it,” says King, ’23, recently a senior class president and currently a co-terminal master’s student in computer science. “It’s this visual-thinking method that’s really novel.” Fractal grids help King wrangle her thoughts into something cohesive. As a kid growing up in Fresno and Clovis, Calif., she had such a wide range of interests that her parents urged her to quit something. And it wasn’t just tennis, choir, and ukulele. By the time she got to Stanford, she struggled to let go of any of her academic loves: philosophy, math, computer science, English, psychology.

Scrolling through majors her freshman year, she came across symbolic systems, an interdisciplinary major that incorporated a near-perfect blend of her interests. She studied human-centered artificial intelligence as an undergrad and expects to wrap up her co-term in 2024. But ideally, her career will revolve around those nine squares. “I want to bring fractal grids to the world,” she says. And she’s already begun. Last spring, Stanford University Press printed 500 copies of King’s educational comic book, *Bit by Bit*, for the computer science department, and recently it signed a contract with King to publish and distribute the book widely in June 2024. A 162-page supplement to Stanford’s introductory CS courses, *Bit by Bit* features characters representing abstract concepts, and, of course, a fractal grid on nearly every page.

SEE KING ON VIDEO
ALU.MS/ECYKING
Changing the world requires inspiration. 
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Leaders look to Stanford for significant professional and personal growth. Our flagship programs offer transformative opportunities to reimagine your role as a leader.

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THIS MAY, Julia Lindsey and David Hutton said “I do” under the same trees that shaded their childhood summers.

In August 2021, the supposed strangers matched on a dating app and spent their first date trading dad jokes. But on their second date, conversation turned to the wildfires near Lake Tahoe. “This fire is encroaching on this area that’s really beloved by my family,” Hutton told Lindsey. “Fallen Leaf Lake.”

“What do you mean ‘Fallen Leaf Lake?’” she said.

They discovered that not only had they both spent time at Stanford Sierra Camp as children, but their families had vacationed there during the same week—Week 12—for years. During their “Sierra Camp background check,” they learned of another coincidence: Their mothers, Libby Hutton and Wendy Carson, had both graduated from Stanford in 1973.

“I think it was maybe our fourth date that I invited [him] over for dinner,” says Lindsey. “My joke was: Normally, a stranger from the internet I would not invite over for dinner, but I thought, ‘Worst-case scenario, I know how to get in touch with his mom.’”

Hutton and Lindsey are now looking forward to their shared future—and to more time with their families at Fallen Leaf Lake.
Welcome the New SAA Board Members

Stanford Alumni Association (SAA) Board Chair, Jennifer Chou,’00, MA ’01, JD ’05 reports that five alumni representatives have agreed to serve on the SAA Board of Directors.

The following alumni began their terms on September 1, 2023.

Kitty Boone, ’79
Snowmass, CO

Kitty Boone has worked for over 20 years at the Aspen Institute, a leadership-convening organization operated out of Washington, D.C. (headquarters), and Aspen, Colorado. Serving as VP, Public Programs, she has led the development and execution of many public conferences and events, most notably the Aspen Ideas Festival, one of the foremost conference events in the United States. Over the years Kitty has served on boards for numerous organizations in the Aspen area, including Aspen Country Day School, Aspen Words, Aspen Public Radio, and Anderson Ranch Arts Center. An avid outdoorswoman, Kitty eagerly hikes, bikes, cross-country skis, downhill skis, and paddle boards with two labs that are scared to death she will sail away. Kitty has volunteered for Stanford in a variety of ways, from interviewing Stanford undergraduate applicants to serving on reunion committees and supporting fundraising efforts. She is a member of Stanford’s Leadership Circle.

Andrés Cantero Jr., ’12
Los Angeles, CA

Andrés Cantero Jr., is currently a senior real estate associate in the Los Angeles office of Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP. He represents institutional investors, owners, and developers in mortgage and mezzanine financings, joint venture, leasing and purchase, and sale transactions. Andrés also serves as chair of the firm’s Attorneys of Color Affinity Group and is the firm-wide representative for the LGBTQ Affinity Group. Andrés is an adjunct professor at USC Gould School of Law, teaching various upper-division transactional courses. Andrés also helped form Los Angeles Room & Board, a nonprofit organization that seeks to house college-aged students experiencing or at risk for homelessness in Los Angeles. Andrés is also passionate about HIV awareness, raising over $100,000 alongside his BIPOC cycling team, Puro Pinche Papi, as part of the Aids Lifecycle ride. Andrés seeks to leave the world a better place than he found it.

Simeen Ali Mohsen, ’96
Newton, MA

Simeen Ali Mohsen is the senior managing director of HBS Online, the division of Harvard Business School that provides business education via online certificate courses. She is responsible for driving the organization’s strategy and long-term success. Previously, Simeen held leadership roles in publishing, including VP, Strategy, Business Development, and VP, Marketing, at Harlequin, a division of HarperCollins. She also held management positions for several of Time, Inc.’s digital brands, including People, InStyle, and Essence. Earlier in her career, Simeen was a consultant at A.T. Kearney. She earned a BS in geological and environmental sciences from Stanford and an MBA from Harvard Business School. Simeen lives in Newton, MA, with her husband and their two children. Simeen has served on the Stanford in Boston club’s board since 2017, and is also a board member of the Charles River Conservancy. On any given weekend, you can find Simeen shuttling her kids from one New England hockey rink to another.

Andrés Cantero Jr., ’12
Los Angeles, CA

Andrés Cantero Jr., is currently a senior real estate associate in the Los Angeles office of Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP. He represents institutional investors, owners, and developers in mortgage and mezzanine financings, joint venture, leasing and purchase, and sale transactions. Andrés also serves as chair of the firm’s Attorneys of Color Affinity Group and is the firm-wide representative for the LGBTQ Affinity Group. Andrés is an adjunct professor at USC Gould School of Law, teaching various upper-division transactional courses. Andrés also helped form Los Angeles Room & Board, a nonprofit organization that seeks to house college-aged students experiencing or at risk for homelessness in Los Angeles. Andrés is also passionate about HIV awareness, raising over $100,000 alongside his BIPOC cycling team, Puro Pinche Papi, as part of the Aids Lifecycle ride. Andrés seeks to leave the world a better place than he found it.

Jessica Yinka Thomas, ’95
Durham, NC

Jessica Yinka Thomas is an academic, activist, and author working to advance the global movement of business as a force for good. She is an associate professor of the practice and the director of the Business Sustainability Collaborative in the Poole College of Management at NC State University. Her work focuses on innovative sustainable business models, including B Corporations. Jessica is the founding president and executive director of B Academics. She has received numerous awards including the Bill Clark B the Change Award, the B Lab Collective Action Award, and the Fuqua Leader of Consequence Award. Jessica has an MBA from the Fuqua School of Business at Duke University. Prior to academia, she held roles designing mobile satellite communications systems at a multinational corporation, managing product development for an educational toy company startup, and consulting for a global health NGO. She enjoys writing social justice novels and playing basketball with her son, Xavier.
**Water Rights**

One alum’s quest to address a basic human need.

**IF YOU DON’T THINK SCROLLING** social media can change your life, much less help you improve the well-being of thousands of strangers, talk to Tiffani Ashley Bell. In 2014, the software engineer read an article in the *Atlantic* about 100,000 Detroit residents whose water had been shut off because of past-due bills. They had no running water for drinking, bathing, flushing the toilet, or washing dishes. Some people even lost custody of their children when they couldn’t supply their basic needs.

Bell, MSM ’21, tweeted about how frustrated she felt about it, and her followers quickly expressed their desire to help. Poking around the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department’s website, she found a 400-page PDF with a list of customer accounts whose bills were undeliverable by mail, some of which were noted as delinquent. She plugged an account number into the website and found her way to a “make a payment” button.

“I’m a programmer by training,” she says, “so I decided to try to match those unpaid water bills with anyone who wanted to help pay them off.” She created a bare-bones website that enabled her to collect information from customers in need as well as would-be donors, then shared it on Twitter.

In about 40 days, donors paid off more than $100,000 of water bills in Detroit.

“It was one of those things where I didn’t think it would really work, but it did, thanks to people having that urge to help someone,” she says.

At first, Bell and her collaborators directed donors to the department’s website to make payments toward delinquent accounts’ bills. Her team would then send the payment confirmation to the household receiving assistance. The next year, Bell founded the nonprofit Detroit Water Project, now known as The Human Utility, which can confer tax benefits to donors, better track payments, and accept donations paid by credit card. Bell wrote the organization’s original crowdfunding software and, later, its case management software.

Today, the three-employee organization assists people in Michigan, Maryland, and Florida, with the Philadelphia area soon to follow. As its full-time executive director, Bell manages fundraising and community partnerships while aiding case intake and management—“talking directly to the people we help,” she says. She also works with researchers and policymakers on public policy related to water affordability.

“Good water affordability policy,” Bell says, “would balance the costs for maintenance and improvement of the water system with making sure water is accessible and affordable to everyone who gets water from a public utility.”

“Assistance,” she adds, “is not the same as affordability.”

Bell, who lives in Los Angeles but has often traveled to Detroit for her work, has heard many stories of the people behind the account numbers. “I remember learning about a Detroit woman, the breadwinner for her family, who was stricken with breast cancer, and she couldn’t pay her bills after all the hospital fees,” Bell says. “This can happen to anyone.”

—David Silverberg

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**7 Races, 7 Days**

RAYMOND BRAUN’s mission to become the first person to complete seven Olympic-distance triathlons on seven continents in seven days started out smaller, as a shared hope. In 2021, Braun, ’12, MA ’12, was in cognitive behavioral therapy to address his lifelong struggle with anxiety and obsessive-compulsive disorder; meanwhile, his best friend—classmate Maya Amoils, ’12—was undergoing treatment for cancer. They planned to train together for a single triathlon, to celebrate their mutual recovery, but Amoils died in 2022. In her honor and to raise awareness about mental health issues, Braun—a social impact communicator and content creator who had never run more than three consecutive miles—expanded his effort.

In February, he crossed his seventh and final finish line in Miami, becoming a world-record holder. Braun knows Amoils would be proud: A rainbow greeted him at the site of his second race, in Cape Town, South Africa, where some members of her family live. She’d also keep it real. She used to “try to get me to walk the Dish with her, and I wouldn’t,” he says. “She’d be reminding me of that.”

—Rebecca Beyer
2023 honorees announced

Since the founding of the university, Stanford alumni have been making a difference in their communities and the world through their dedication to public service. Stanford celebrates their impact with the President’s Award for the Advancement of the Common Good. Congratulations to the awardees, who were recognized at Commencement in June 2023.

Dianne Calvi, ’84

Calvi, president and CEO of Village Enterprise, advocates for the most vulnerable and works to end extreme poverty in rural Africa. The organization focuses on strategic partnerships; innovation and technology; rigorous monitoring and evaluation; and building a passionate African workforce.

(Image courtesy Dianne Calvi)

Rey Saldaña, ’09, MA ’10

Saldaña is president and CEO of Communities in Schools (CIS), the country’s largest nonprofit providing student support inside schools, ensuring students are empowered to stay in school and on a path to a brighter future. CIS is the country’s largest provider of student support inside schools with more than 4,000 staff embedded in over 3,000 Title I schools in 26 states.

(Image courtesy Rey Saldaña)
Beyond Student Council

LAST FALL, SATHVIK NORI, ’25, became the youngest person elected to the Sequoia Union High School District board of trustees. He ran at age 19, newly graduated from the district himself. As a senior at Menlo-Atherton High School, Nori served as one of the board’s student trustees (a nonvoting youth position) during the pandemic.

“I really saw how a school board operated at one of its toughest moments—you had parents, teachers, and administrators just in complete chaos. Every single meeting would go until 2 a.m.,” he says. “It showed me more about how education works at a macro policy level and the power they have in shaping the district.”

Now nine months into his four-year elected term, the computer science major and education minor has adjusted to life as a full-time student with a part-time public service career. Around 3 p.m. each Wednesday, Nori leaves his Escondido Village apartment and heads to the district boardroom for up to six hours of meetings (with the occasional early departure for an unmovable CS midterm). In addition, he makes regular visits to school sites, and in May, he traveled to Washington, D.C., to lobby on behalf of the California School Boards Association.

Among Nori’s priorities is addressing the varied needs of some 10,000 students, from Atherton to East Palo Alto. “We by no means can solve all the societal problems that might have caused the achievement gap to manifest,” he says, “but we can ensure that every student has a great experience in the four years that we see them, and really comes out prepared to do whatever they want to do.”

Serving on the board now, Nori says, even though it’s a juggling act with college, is important because he’s so recently out of the district. Board president Rich Ginn, ’93, MS ’94, appreciates that. “Sathvik is a dedicated board member,” he says. Nori notes that education governance is unusual, in that “the people who are affected most by the decisions that we make are the students, who have no voice in actually electing the people who represent them. I wanted to [run] because I felt like I could bring that perspective.”

–Rachel Lit, ’25

IN THE LOBBY: Nori, in Washington, D.C., with another California school board member, Paige Winikoff, says he brings the perspective of a recently graduated student to high school governance.

Can you say squad goals? At the 2023 FIFA Women’s World Cup, seven former Cardinal athletes got their shots. On the U.S. National Team, Alana Cook, ’19, Naomi Girma, ’22, Sophia Smith, ’22, and Andi Sullivan, ’18, made their World Cup debuts, while Kelley O’Hara, ’10, scored a spot for the fourth time. Ali Riley, ’10, competed on New Zealand’s team for the fifth time, and Kyra Carusa, ’18, made her debut with the Republic of Ireland. A gem on a different field is Tommy Troy, ’24, who went to the Arizona Diamondbacks in the first round of the MLB draft. Back at home base, physicist John Sarrao, ’89, will return to campus this October as the sixth director of the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory. And particle physics can’t explain how a Cardinal becomes a duck, but John Karl Scholz, PhD ’88, can. He’s the new president of the University of Oregon.
Stanford Graduate School of Education proudly announces the recipients of the Alumni Excellence in Education Award

Marciano Gutierrez, MA ’06
Stanford Teacher Education Program (STEP)
Middle College Academic Advisor, Instructor at Foothill College

GUTIERREZ is recognized for exceptional teaching practice in alternative high school learning environments. Early in his career, he served as a Stanford Teacher Education Program cooperating teacher and received a Fulbright-Hays study fellowship to China. As a White House Teaching Ambassador, Gutierrez advised Secretary of Education Arne Duncan on teacher recruitment and retention. His facilitation of communication between educators and the department earned him the descriptor “education diplomat.”

Su Jin Jez, MA ’06, PhD ’08
Administration and Policy Analysis
Chief Executive Officer, California Competes: Higher Education for a Strong Economy

JEZ leads her organization’s work developing nonpartisan and financially pragmatic recommendations for improved higher education and workforce policies across California. She is helping to shape an inclusive, future-ready system of learning that positions all students and Californians to achieve their educational and career goals. Her efforts have catalyzed the transformation of higher education structures to support underserved students, such as adult learners and student parents, in innovative ways.

Joi A. Spencer, ’94, MA ’99
Language Learning and Policy
Dean and Professor, University of California, Riverside, School of Education

SPENCER’S work centers on educational equity in higher and K-12 education research and the mathematics learning opportunities of African American and other minoritized youth. Prior to becoming dean at UC Riverside, her work at the University of San Diego’s School of Leadership and Education Sciences resulted in the launch of the doctoral program in Education for Social Justice, the implementation of professional development on anti-racism, and the school’s first Diversity Post-Doctoral Fellows Program.

The 2023 honorees will be formally recognized on Friday, October 20. ed.stanford.edu/alumni/award
HEN ABBY RUBIN DAVISSON, MA ’08, MBA ’08, and her then-boyfriend, Ross Davisson, ’01, MBA ’08, were deciding whether to move in together, they wrote a 20-page research paper about it, covering everything from how they would manage finances and divide household tasks to where they would spend holidays. At the time, they were students in Work and Family, a popular course taught by Myra Strober at the Graduate School of Business for more than four decades. The paper was for course credit; it also formed the foundation of their future life together.

“That became the blueprint we have followed for more than 15 years,” says Davisson, a former president of the Gap Foundation, who has been married to Ross since 2009.

Davisson kept in touch with Strober after graduation. She and Ross were even guest speakers in Strober’s class. A few years ago, Strober and Davission teamed up to write Money and Love: An Intelligent Roadmap for Life’s Biggest Decisions. The book, published earlier this year, is designed to help readers create their own blueprint for a successful partnership. It provides a guide to some of the many discussions and decisions couples will face as they pursue a life together—about their individual career pursuits, where they want to live, how they’ll manage money, whether to have children, how they’ll raise children if they have them, how long is too long for the in-laws to stay, and why, why haven’t you called the plumber yet?

Strober, a professor emerita of education, is a labor economist by training. Her dissertation at MIT was about manufacturing wages in 53 countries. But after she was told by one university that she would never be given tenure because she was the mother of young children, she decided to examine “the bigger picture” of gender in the workplace. That research led her to create the Work and Family course, which she first taught at Cal and then at Stanford starting in 1972—when she and another woman became the GSB’s first female faculty members.

Over the years, the class became increasingly popular, first with undergraduate women, then with women enrolled at the GSB (once greater numbers were admitted), and finally with men.

Strober says we all have something to learn when it comes to balancing our personal and professional lives. “Everybody needs to figure out how they’re going to divide the housework, how they’ll take care of children, whether they’re going to get married,” she explains. “These questions transcend race, gender, and social class. These questions are everywhere, for everybody.”

That fits what Paula Holt, ’88, has seen. She’s the host of Practically Married, a podcast based on a 10-part marriage preparation program she has licensed to couples’ therapists since 2019. Her program covers some of the common sticking points in relationships—such as career goals, sex, and money—but also less obvious obstacles,

**ADVICE**

**Talk It Out**

How to make decisions with your sweetheart about love, work, home, and family.

**BY REBECCA BEYER**
including mental health.

According to Strober, Davisson, and Holt, good decision-making in a relationship—a process that takes each partner’s needs and desires into account—requires a level of communication and candor that some people aren’t accustomed to. The good news is that we can improve upon our habits, on our own or with professional help. The trick is in taking that first step. “I always told my students, ‘The diving board is there,’” Strober says. “It’s not getting any lower. The question is, when are you going to jump off?”

START THE CONVERSATION.

Don’t: Spring a serious topic on someone.

Do: Schedule a time to talk, as you would a work meeting.

Before she was even engaged, Holt was interested in what she came to think of as “marriage planning.” She had seen an episode of Oprah that talked about post-wedding life and noticed that while wedding planning was in high demand (and supply), the market didn’t offer much in the way of helping couples navigate the realities of a committed relationship. She felt she had identified a gap in the cultural zeitgeist.

Then she fell into it.

Married since 2003, Holt and her husband made some early decisions without really thinking about them, she says. For instance, after moving to New York for his job and getting pregnant sooner than they expected she would, Holt became a stay-at-home mom. Not because that’s what she had intended to do or wanted to do, but because the pair hadn’t planned for anything else. “That was never really my intention,” she says. “But we got engaged in June and married in September. That didn’t leave time to be intentional and proactive.”

Holt says premarital counseling—or even a self-guided reflection process—is important in any relationship. “Premarital counseling has gotten a bad rap,” she says. “Some people think it means you have problems. There’s a branding issue. I really consider it marriage preparation.”

Starting discussions about finances, job opportunities in far-flung locations, or children can be difficult, even when you know you need to have them. Davisson and Holt say it can help to use a book, article, podcast, or TV show as a segue into a serious talk. (Holt recommends the Netflix series How to Get Rich, hosted by Ramit Sethi, ’04, MA ’05.) “It’s a conversation starter,” Holt says. “And it’s seeing other couples who are struggling too. Sometimes you can think, ‘It’s just us.’ Shows like that demonstrate that it’s not.”

After you’ve broached the topic, set aside time for the discussion. “You don’t want to get somebody walking in or out the door,” Holt says. “Just ask: ‘I want to talk about our money situation. When would be a good time?’”

Davisson says she and her husband often have their best talks while hiking. “We’re not in our house with the dishes piled up and laundry all over the place,” she says. “We can
think more expansively, let our kids run up ahead.” And maybe crucially, they’re not facing each other. (That tactic transfers easily to the car, BTW) “Sometimes it’s easier when you’re both looking in the same direction.”

THINK LIKE A TEAM.
Don’t: Try to prove a point.
Do: Think of the problem as your common enemy.

Once you’re on the figurative or literal trail, there are some best practices to keep in mind to keep the discussion from going off a cliff. Strober and Davisson offer their so-called 5Cs for decision-making:

- **Clarify** what you want as an individual.
- **Communicate** with your partner.
- **Consider a range of choices**.
- **Check in** with people you trust.
- **Think about possible consequences**.

Once you’re in the communication stage, mindset is important: If you go into the discussion with an agenda or to prove a point (“You never help with the chores”), you’ve already lost. “One of the images I find very powerful,” Davisson says, “is that rather than viewing the discussion as you against your partner, think of it as you and your partner together against the problem.” Your goal is to make the best decision for both of you.

Even discussions that seem inherently oppositional can be reimagined. In *Money and Love*, Strober describes the process of creating a prenuptial agreement with her second husband. Rather than hire separate attorneys, they used a single lawyer. “The attorney was for both of us to help the relationship move forward,” she says. “We were on the same side of the table.”

LISTEN UP.
Don’t: Be on your phone.
Do: Be willing to change your mind.

Davission and Strober describe the continuous communication a healthy relationship needs as a dance: Each partner expresses their views individually, and then both partners come together to try to connect on a way forward. “It’s a dance between clarify and communicate,” Strober says. “It’s a little solo by yourself, then you dance together, then you go back and do your solo. It’s an ongoing conversation. Once you hear each other’s goals, you may change your mind.”

Holt likes to quote author Rosalind Wiseman, who defines listening as “being prepared to be changed by what you hear.”

“Most of us don’t do that,” Holt says.

That kind of listening and connecting requires your full attention. So, as basic as it sounds, put your phone out of reach. “Even just the presence of a phone face down on the table will inhibit someone’s willingness to get vulnerable,” Holt says, “because they know at any moment it might ring or you might pick it up.”

REMEMBER THAT THIS IS A PROCESS.
Don’t: Keep your feelings bottled up.
Do: Revisit existing arrangements when life changes.

Holt initially created her program for premarital counseling. But after she heard from a therapist who had used her module on sex to help a married couple “start from scratch” in their approach to intimacy, Holt changed the language to encompass couples at any stage of their relationship. “It’s never too late,” she says, to have conversations about the dynamics of your relationship. In fact, certain inflection points—a new job comes along, children go off to college, one of you is ready to retire—may require revisiting past arrangements.

That said, Holt, Strober, and Davission all point out that once habits and patterns have become entrenched, you may need outside help to escape them. Take Strober and Davission’s example of a husband who decided, after 20 years of marriage, to help his wife with the housework. He offered to do laundry; she countered with toilets; he refused, and the conversation, along with his good intentions, went down the drain. “Conversations around division of labor are hard,” Holt says. “If you’ve let it fester for all this time, and if you didn’t let it be known at any point [that you didn’t want to do a particular task], you can’t come in hot,” she says. “You’re not going to get anywhere with that.”
KEEP TALKING, EVEN IF YOU’RE NO LONGER TOGETHER.
Don’t: Stop talking.
Do: Compromise.

Relationships are all about reaching a resolution to disagreements, Davisson says, “that maybe ‘I don’t love but I can live with.’”

But sometimes we can’t live with each other anymore.

Strober says she has received emails from former students who tell her that, because of what they learned in her class, they are no longer with their partner. Still, she considers that a success of sorts. “Better to find out now,” she tells them. When it comes to the diving board, she adds, “sooner is better; later is less good.”

Even if couples decide they are no longer compatible—or realize they never were compatible in the ways that really matter—difficult decisions don’t go away. Dissolving a partnership requires compromise, too, and having a history of healthy communication can help. Strober and Davisson wrote an entire chapter about “choppy waters,” including divorce.

Clarifying the terms of separation “can be very helpful in leading to an amicable divorce,” Davison says. In the book, Strober uses her own marriage as an example. Her second husband (who died while she was writing the book) suggested they include their exes in their Thanksgiving celebration as part of their extended family. After a few years, Strober agreed. “It was a great thing to do—for us, for the children, for everybody,” she says.

Strober admits that in her first marriage, she didn’t do any of the things she taught students to do. “In retrospect, that’s part of the reason it was unsuccessful,” she says. In her second husband, however, she had a willing partner. “His fingerprints are all over that book; they were all over the class,” she says. “I learned a tremendous amount from him about how couples need to share and interact.”

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All Right Now

All Right Now

22 SEPTEMBER 2023

THOMAS SANZ

IT'S ALL RIGHT NOW, except when it isn't.

The invitation to create a page for the 35th Reunion Class Book sat in my inbox for weeks. In past years, I had highlighted the arrival of children, travels with family, a cross-border move, and even my firstborn’s acceptance to Stanford. But it is less clear what to do if the big event since we last gathered isn’t something to celebrate — if the biggest milestone is a headstone.

“What would you like your classmates to know about your life today?” the email queried. Thirty-five years ago, I was single, no kids, and my career path was ambiguous. In the five years since our last reunion, my husband, Steve, died; my three adult kids have launched; and my career path has gotten murky. Just like being 22 again, but not in that fun, exciting, ready-for-an-adventure kind of way.

I wrote that entry in my head, then in my journal, and finally I submitted it for the Class Book. It’s not what I’d like my classmates to know about my life today, but it is what’s true, and I’d prefer to tell of my bereavement virtually than wait for the reunion to share in person. Although I know the dance well, I will never master it: I tell you my shocking news; you step back, then right yourself, lean toward me with brow furrowed, and ask a tender question or offer condolences; meanwhile, I work to steady you. Let’s avoid this interaction if possible.

So, click! I broadcast my loss to give classmates a chance to prepackage their responses. I feel both generous and relieved for doing so. Yet I am ambivalent about actually going to the reunion.

Grief brought on by the death of a loved one is as common as death itself, but bereaved people often feel alone in their loss. Perhaps this is because we often avoid the subject and live as if death comes for others, not for us—until it does. In our success-driven culture, death raises a kind of shame, giving the lie to our pursuit of ever higher achievements. Or perhaps I feel alone because despite there being 11.8 million widows in the United States and 2,800 more each day, I am the only widow of my husband. My experience, like everyone’s, is unique. And it is disorienting.

Grief changes the way one shows up in the world. Something core to who I am has shifted—it would seem dishonest to pretend otherwise. Death is shocking, and people are awkward in the face of grief; it’s easy to choose avoidance over presence. This is the dilemma behind the ambivalence I feel about going to my reunion. It’s one thing to put it all out on the page, where classmates can react to my news, buffered by the privacy of their own screens; it’s another thing to attend in person, bearing the weight of loss. Wouldn’t I be doing everyone a favor if I were to stay home? And dare I go to my reunion without the safe harbor of my husband’s companionship, into which I could retreat and where I could enjoy all the quirky and wonderful reunion moments, and more significantly, where I could recover or hide from the painful and awkward ones?

On the other hand, my husband’s death has left a profound hole in my world—it’s not a loneliness precisely, but an aloneness in which my own thoughts echo. Sometimes I get tired of the ringing in my ears. Perhaps the company of old friends would mute the reverberations. So, I buy reunion tickets, book flights, and begin searching for accommodations, all the while wondering who else will show up. I feel some of the same nerves as when I first made plans to move to campus in the fall of 1983, stepping out of my comfort zone with guarded confidence that the risk would be worth taking.

Back then, Stanford did a lot of the work, assigning me a roommate and a frosh dorm; throwing a wacky, event-filled orientation; creating the expectation of friendliness and bonding. Maybe Stanford would do the work again. I emailed the Stanford Alumni

JOURNEYS

Alone, Together

My husband had been my safe harbor. In the wake of his loss, how would I navigate Reunion Homecoming?

BY SUSIE COLBY

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Association and explained the dilemma a reunion poses for those of us who carry grief. I proposed an event for us to find one another, a sort of safe space for the sad and broken-hearted. My proposal was met with Stanford’s characteristic enthusiasm for innovation: “We’ve never done that before! Let’s try it!” Back in 1983, I chose to go to Stanford because it seemed friendly, welcoming. One reason I chose to return was that I knew it would be again. And it was.

Class of ’87 Reunion co-chair Jeffrey Rainey threw himself into the planning, and SAA class manager Javier Heinz lent support. Soon we were off and running, via Zoom. Planning the Gathering for Classmates in Grief was reminiscent of those frosh dorm high jinks, when we organized trips to the City, Secret Santa stunts, and pranks on Branner. Should planning a grief event be fun? The gathering wouldn’t be fun, exactly, but it could be a means of fostering connection. Finding people who share a soul-level

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### How to Show Up for a Grieving Friend

- **Realize that your friend will be happy to see you.**
- **Acknowledge their loss.** You will probably feel awkward. You might even say the wrong thing. But naming the loss allows your friend to decide how or whether to talk about it. Follow their lead.
- **Share memories about the person who died.** Many bereaved people experience compounded sorrow when not only is their loved one gone but others act as if they’d never existed.
- **Engage.** It’s tempting to avoid someone who is grieving. We give ourselves excuses to avoid them, saying we don’t want to add to their pain. Here’s a secret: You cannot add to their pain. Their pain is too great and might be too complicated for anything you say to make it significantly worse. Avoiding a grieving friend only adds to their loss.
- **Don’t assume you know how a bereaved person feels.**
- **Ask better questions.** “How are you?” saddles the bereaved with the burden of evaluating their own well-being. Think of something specific to ask.
- **Be OK with tears.** If they happen during your conversation, that simply means you have joined your friend in this new reality. Welcome.
- **Accept that you might feel uncomfortable.** Don’t let that keep you from accompanying and supporting your friend.

—S.C.
understanding of loss and who don’t find it awkward to acknowledge grief could be an oasis amid our reunion festivities.

The event would follow the Class Panel, when folks might be in a reflective mood, and it would be before the Class Party; those attending solo might benefit from having made a few new friends. There was just one question remaining: Would anyone show up?

Robert Gregg, emeritus professor of religious studies and former dean of the chapel, had graciously agreed to join the gathering. Around 30 people attended, including classmates who had experienced the death of a spouse, child, or close friend since the last reunion, and others with less recent losses. One person was in mourning for her dog. A younger man asked to join us: “My class isn’t doing this, but my mother died, and I need to be here.” Maybe we all did.

Once I’d begun planning the event, I realized I had inadvertently committed to attend the reunion, so I emailed my old friends from Rinconada. One by one, they arranged to be in the area regardless of whether they would attend reunion events. We dined together at the home of one who lives locally; we enjoyed a sleepover, talking into the wee hours, just as we once had; we wandered campus recalling bike accidents, exams, bats in study carrels, and fro yo at Tresidder; we made Hobee’s-style French toast using an improvised recipe. We re-created a photo from our first year and convinced ourselves we hadn’t changed a bit.

Yet of course we have changed—marriages, children, death, divorce, graduate school, jobs, and job changes have marked us. To celebrate with one another is a joy, but to carry one another’s pain is necessary for survival. Amid the festivities, most profound were the quiet moments of connection. Maybe that had always been true.

By the 35th reunion, almost everyone has sorrow to bear. Mine feels acute and present in a particular way, as my loss is recent. Anticipating the reunion, I feared my sorrow’s visibility, but I feared its invisibility more. I didn’t want to feel fake or act fake, but I wondered whether it would be OK to be real. As the weekend unfolded, I realized that my friends were more interested in the real me than in a performance of the old me. And surprisingly, the old me is still there to be found.

During the gathering, Dean Gregg drew on his own experience and encouraged us to choose love each day as a means of coping with sorrow. Since my husband’s death, I have been committed to doing just that. Sometimes choosing love feels risky; showing up at the reunion certainly did. Sometimes choosing love means choosing to go where you will be loved—and known. It still isn’t all right now. But it is a little bit better being in it with good friends.

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TEPHANIE SHIH, MA ’10, PhD ’14, imagines an exhibit one day that juxtaposes some of her still life photographic images with paintings by the Dutch masters that inspired them. Postimpressionist Vincent van Gogh’s Vase with Twelve Sunflowers, for example, would accompany her photograph Vase with Ten Bunflowers.

Shih, who spends her days as an associate professor of linguistics at USC, giggles at the thought of her bun pun. Then she describes her surprising choice to replace a few of the van Gogh sunflowers with the much-loved Chinese pineapple bun. It’s part of the ongoing exhibit “Open Flowers Bear Fruit” at the McCarthy Gallery at Washington and Lee University, in which she uses foods and items from Asian communities to upturn the European still life tradition, she says. In another piece, she sneaks doughnuts from a neighborhood Cambodian doughnut shop into a still life that echoes the work of Jan Brueghel. In a third, she drapes kimchi gracefully across a dish as a flower—and swirls it into a neighboring floral arrangement. The works are both playful and serious—much, it seems, as is Shih herself.

Shih was born and raised in the Bay Area and spent her summers in Taiwan. Her interest in photography first blossomed when her dad loaned her his cameras when she was a child. After graduating from UC Berkeley, she started her doctoral degree in linguistics at Stanford and began playing around with cameras again. As a part-time gig, in between long study sessions, she baked wedding cakes for a little extra cash. To market her work to clients, she started photographing her cakes outdoors, in gardens. That’s how she found she had a talent for food art, and her dual career began.

For her linguistics research, Shih uses computers to collect and analyze basic language data, such as the frequency of sounds, words, and word elements. “Not until I really got into academia did it become important to me to work on issues of diversity, equity, and belonging,” she says. “And that bleeds out into my artwork.”

Subversion describes her approach to reinventing Eurocentric masterpieces with objects from Asian cultures—a practice, she says, that brings artistic sway full circle. Van Gogh was greatly influenced by Japanese woodblock prints, for example. And many of the Dutch still life masters used Asian pottery in their artwork, she says.

Since she began her position at USC in 2018, Shih has connected with Asian American shop owners, chefs, and other creators in Los Angeles to help fulfill some of her photographic fantasies. “I wanted to combine the exuberance of eating a doughnut with that of
Brueghel’s bursting florals, as an homage to cross-sensory experiences that make us happy,” she writes of her photograph *Brueghel’s Breakfast*.

And sometimes, just for fun, she adds a touch of video to her photographs online—a single apricot jumps on and off a pillar next to a fruit display, and milk splashes over a cereal-sprinkled doughnut in a bowl. “In thinking about still life, I always like to nudge it a little bit, using motion as a way to kind of subvert the practice, to suggest there is something different with this still life. It’s both still as well as not.”

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Transition
MARC TESSIER-LAVIGNE, who stepped down as the university’s president on August 31, oversaw Stanford during a time of uncommon change and challenge. Even his first major address to students—in September 2016, when he welcomed the incoming undergraduate Class of 2020—is now tinged through the prism of hindsight: Most of them would spend their senior spring quarter at home as COVID-19 lockdowns began. In his final address to students, at Commencement in June, Tessier-Lavigne remarked on the resilience required to weather the pandemic. “Many of you were in your first year on campus when the COVID shutdown happened,” he said. “We all learned that year how drastically the world can change in an instant. But you also learned, through that experience, the perseverance and the strength of character that you each have within yourselves.”

In his seven years at the helm, Tessier-Lavigne shepherded the institution through a global pandemic but also put forth a Long-Range Vision that will continue to shape the university. One of its signature achievements is the Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability, which launched last year.

In July, Tessier-Lavigne announced his resignation as president after a scientific panel found flaws in a handful of his research papers due to manipulation of research data or deficient scientific practices by members of his labs. Although the report did not find that Tessier-Lavigne engaged in scientific misconduct or was aware of the misconduct in his labs, he chose to step down, he said, for the well-being of the university, where he remains a professor of biology. “Stanford is greater than any one of us,” Tessier-Lavigne wrote in a message to the Stanford community. “This decision is rooted in my respect for the university and its community and my unwavering commitment to doing what I believe is in the best interests of Stanford.”

OVER A CAREER spanning more than three decades, Tessier-Lavigne has published 74 papers as a principal author and more than 150 as a nonprincipal author. His work has contributed significantly to scientists’ understanding of the nervous system and how neurons develop and form circuits; it has offered crucial insights into brain function and shed light on neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer’s. Tessier-Lavigne served on the faculty at UC San Francisco from 1991 to 2001, then, after a brief stint as a biology professor at Stanford, joined Genentech as a senior scientist in 2003. In 2011, he returned to academia as the president of Rockefeller University, and in 2016, he rejoined Stanford as its president.

Beginning in November 2022, a series of articles in the Stanford Daily made allegations of image alteration and duplication in seven scientific papers, published between 1999 and 2009, on which Tessier-Lavigne is a listed author. In several cases, the images had already been flagged on PubPeer, an online platform that allows users to raise potential issues about scientific publications.

Stanford’s Board of Trustees, which oversees the president, created a special committee to investigate the allegations. The committee retained attorney Mark Filip, a former federal judge and former U.S. deputy attorney general, to lead the review. Filip in turn named a five-member scientific panel to conduct an impartial evaluation: Hollis Cline, the chair of Scripps Research
Institute’s department of neuroscience; Kafui Dzirasa, a Duke professor specializing in neurobiology; Steven Hyman, a neuroscientist, former Harvard provost, and former journal editor; Randy Schekman, PhD ’75, a Nobel laureate cell biologist and former journal editor; and Shirley Tilghman, a cell biologist who had served as Princeton’s 19th president. The panel focused on 12 papers about which concerns had been raised, ultimately zeroing in on the five “primary papers” for which Tessier-Lavigne was a principal author. After conducting 50 meetings (including seven with Tessier-Lavigne), considering analyses by forensic image experts, and reviewing more than 50,000 documents, the panel submitted its report to the special committee, which released it in full on July 19.

The panel did not find that Tessier-Lavigne personally engaged in research misconduct or that he had knowledge of misconduct by others before the papers were published. But it did find evidence that others in Tessier-Lavigne’s labs had “either engaged in inappropriate manipulation of research data or engaged in deficient scientific practices, resulting in significant flaws in [the primary papers],” according to a statement by Board of Trustees chair Jerry Yang, ’90, MS ’90.

Further, the panel found that when some of those issues came to light, Tessier-Lavigne “took inadequate steps to correct mistakes in the scientific record,” including failing to submit corrections or follow up on corrections he had submitted. The panel also noted that the problems involved different people in labs Tessier-Lavigne ran at different institutions. “This is unusual,” the panel wrote, and although Tessier-Lavigne had created a culture in his laboratory with many positive attributes, “there may have been opportunities to improve laboratory oversight and management.”

Tessier-Lavigne, who accepted the report’s conclusions, says he will retract three of the primary papers and pursue corrections to the other two, as well as reassess processes and controls in his lab. “I am gratified that the panel concluded I did not engage in any fraud or falsification of scientific data,” he said in his July 19 message. “Specifically, the panel did not find that I engaged in research misconduct regarding the 12 papers reviewed, nor did it find I had knowledge of or was reckless regarding research misconduct in my lab. As I have emphatically stated, I have never submitted a scientific paper without firmly believing that the data were correct and accurately presented. Today’s report supports that statement.”

IN 2017, Tessier-Lavigne appealed to the community for ideas to inform Stanford’s priorities for the future as a “purposeful university”: a school that “promotes and celebrates excellence not as an end in itself, but as a means to magnify its benefit to society; a university that, relentlessly, educates students to be global citizens and leaders, fosters unlimited creativity, and discovers and applies knowledge for the benefit of humanity.”

Faculty, students, staff, and alumni supplied more than 2,800 ideas, and Tessier-Lavigne’s administration announced the university’s Long-Range Vision in 2019. “True to our roots, it focuses on magnifying Stanford’s beneficial impact in the world, with an emphasis on meeting the scale and urgency of the challenges ahead,” Tessier-Lavigne wrote in STANFORD. The resulting initiatives, grouped into four areas—sustaining life, accelerating solutions, catalyzing discovery, and preparing citizens—will extend well into the future. But during Tessier-Lavigne’s tenure, several key elements were put in place:

• The Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability: In 2022, to foster a sustainable future on Earth, Stanford opened its first new school in more than 70 years. Its focus on three broad areas—earth, climate, and society—brings together hundreds of students, faculty, and researchers from around campus to grapple with the challenges of sustainability and amplify global impact. “Climate and sustainability are the defining issues of the 21st century,” said the school’s inaugural dean, professor of mechanical engineering Arun Majumdar, last year in STANFORD. “Arguably, there is no other issue that is more important that will affect humanity and the planet. As is often said, we do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.”

• The Accelerators: Four launchpads—one each for medicines, learning, social science impact, and sustainability—were established to marshal specialized knowledge, personnel, and partnerships with the goal of bridging the gap between scholarship and real-world application. “What we want to do is to look for places where people get stuck, where there are inefficiencies, where the progression of knowledge towards application really gets gummed up,” Tessier-Lavigne told STANFORD earlier this year.

• Affordability Initiatives: A series of enhancements for faculty, staff, postdocs, and students aimed to ease financial challenges from housing to child care to health insurance. Beginning this fall, undergraduates whose families earn less than $100,000 per year will not pay tuition, room, or board. And with the opening of the Escondido Village Graduate Residences in 2020, the university can house 75 percent of its graduate students.

• ResX: A 2018 task force sought input from more than 500 students, faculty, staff, and alumni before proposing modifications to Stanford’s undergraduate housing system. Their plan, in short:
Sustain the relationships and academic experiences infused into dorm life; ditch the increasingly unpopular and sometimes friendship-shredding Draw system by sorting residences into eight neighborhoods that undergraduates would generally remain in all four years. The hope was to promote student belonging and well-being.

The roll-out did not go perfectly. Students lamented insufficient space for events, thought the noncontiguous geography of each neighborhood was awkward, and wanted more flexibility in neighborhood reassignment. “The system seems to penalize you for being friends with people outside your dorm,” one student told the Daily. Last spring, based on student feedback, administrators established a pilot program to increase neighborhood choice and streamlined processes for student-run events. “We’re committed to working with students to foster a campus life that is supportive, enriching, and fun,” Tessier-Lavigne said.

**Civic, Liberal, and Global Education (COLLEGE):** In fall 2021, Stanford launched a new frosh core curriculum to develop a shared vocabulary and knowledge among undergraduates and better prepare them for civic life. The sequence—students are currently required to take two out of three courses—progresses from Why College? to Citizenship in the 21st Century to a set of options on the theme of global perspectives. “We’re trying to create a common culture and a common experience among our very, very diverse undergraduates,” Debra Satz, the dean of the School of Humanities and Sciences and a philosophy professor who has taught the citizenship course, told Stanford in 2021. “We don’t all have to agree, but we have to have a common basis for talking through some of our disagreements.”

**TESSIER-LAVIGNE OVERSAWS** two additional transformations at Stanford. The first was in the physical world: Stanford opened its Redwood City campus, which houses staff in the university’s first major expansion beyond the historic campus, and nearer to the Quad, a new Stanford Hospital, modern homes for the Hoover Institution and the Knight-Hennessy Scholars program, and four major science buildings. The second was to the virtual world: Along with outgoing provost Persis Drell, he spearheaded the transition of a major university to overwhelmingly online-only instruction while simultaneously supporting COVID-19 research and development. From the earliest days, Stanford scientists threw themselves into the efforts to combat the virus—pivoting research on a dime, donating supplies to the labs of colleagues, and even keeping labs open 24 hours per day. “This is Stanford at its best,” Tessier-Lavigne said in his address to the faculty in 2021. “Seeing a problem early; devoting energy, time, and resources to tackling it; and problem-solving at every step along the way until we reach a solution.”

**ON JULY 19,** Yang thanked Tessier-Lavigne on behalf of the Board of Trustees “for his seven years of dedicated engagement and service as Stanford’s president, during which he achieved a number of outstanding accomplishments,” including his “instrumental” role in establishing the Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability. “With a team of dedicated university leaders, he ensured that Stanford retained its standing as a world-class institution through the unique challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic,” Yang wrote. “And, in May 2019, President Tessier-Lavigne unveiled a strategic Long-Range Vision that will continue to guide the university’s path forward.”

**Saller Steps Up**

RICHARD SALLER KNOWS HIS WAY AROUND A UNIVERSITY. A specialist in Roman social and economic history, he was provost at the University of Chicago before serving as dean of Stanford’s School of Humanities and Sciences from 2007 to 2018. This fall, the professor of classics moves two doors down the inner Quad to assume the helm of the university until a new president is selected. In mid-August, Saller spoke with Stanford about the year ahead: what will happen, what won’t, and where he’ll need to navigate uncertainty. At press time, he had just named Law School dean Jenny Martinez the university’s next provost.

**STANFORD: You recently published your fifth book, Pliny’s Roman Economy: Natural History, Innovation, and Growth. What keeps you passionate about your field?**

SALLER: In general, my work in Roman social and economic history has sort of followed my own life. When I was a graduate student in desperate need of a job, I wrote a book on patronage. And when I was a new father of two young sons, I wrote a book on patriarchy and the limitations thereof. And then more recently having been dean and provost, my work has been on the economy—you know, finances.

I find Roman history to be interesting because it’s pretty regularly cited as a warning about the direction our country is going. So that’s what I make the focus of my introductory seminar, which I’ve taught 10 times since my arrival at Stanford. I challenge the students to think about the similarities, but also just how different our world is. For example, we live in a society that’s heavily dependent on fossil fuels. And,
of course, that carries all kinds of negative consequences. But on the positive side, it’s with the use of nonsomatic—that is, nonhuman, nonanimal—sources of energy that European and American societies have been able to get past slavery and other kinds of dependent labor. One calculation suggests that you and I have at our fingertips the amount of energy that it would’ve taken 50 enslaved people in a Roman household to generate. I mean, just think about what it means to push a button or turn a key and have a two-ton car in motion. Or the way that the Romans cleaned their clothes was by having enslaved people stomping on them in pits filled with urine. I don’t want students to forget about that because I think right now there’s huge anxiety about the future. We want to be able to have a sense of perspective about things that are much better now than they were 100 years ago or 2,000 years ago.

You’ve been at Stanford since 2007. What keeps you here?
I think Stanford is probably the most extraordinary concentration of diverse talent anywhere in the world. There certainly is no place that has [such a] gathering of Nobel Prize winners and Olympic medalists. And that presents its own challenge, of course, right now [with respect to the Pac-12]. But always in my administrative career, I’ve wanted to work at a place where I had the highest regard for the students and faculty. And the quality of the faculty at Stanford is unsurpassed anywhere in the world. It’s just a privilege to work with them. That together with the fact that I love cycling in the mountains here means that there’s no place else I could pick that would be more congenial.

You’ll be the first humanist to lead the university since historian Richard Lyman stepped down in 1980. What sensibilities do you think that helps you bring to the job?
I think it’s important to acknowledge that we are in a changing world where a technical education is more highly valued than ever before. And I don’t see that changing, but I think it needs to be combined with some part of the traditional liberal arts education, particularly in the humanities. And I think there are several dimensions to that. There’s the utilitarian function—that it’s important to know how to write and communicate, regardless of your occupation.

Secondly, I think the humanities stand to offer some perspectives on moral and ethical issues that might not be addressed otherwise. I was just talking to [Dean] Jennifer Widom and have discovered that the Engineering School is really making a concerted effort to build more ethics into their programs.

And then thirdly—and this is something that I think is not emphasized enough in the rhetoric at Stanford—a good liberal arts education just elevates your humanity. And so what I would hope is that our education makes our students individually better, not just that they’re going to go out and improve the world—I hope they do that—but also that they have a fuller life as a result.

How is one asked to be an interim president?
By complete surprise, complete surprise.

[Board of Trustees chair] Jerry Yang [‘90, MS ‘90] invited me to his home, and we had a couple of long conversations. I had thought that my trajectory was from—at Chicago—department chair to dean to provost. Then to dean [at Stanford] to department chair. I sort of thought I might end up as a graduate student.

What challenges are inherent in this being a temporary position?
I don’t imagine trying to initiate any big new projects that can’t be finished up in a year. What I expect to do is begin to follow through on [the Long-Range Vision], and to pick and choose the things that I feel especially passionate about.

There are some issues that we’re going to have to deal with, like affirmative action and admissions. I have not yet gotten a briefing since the [Supreme Court decision that struck down race-conscious admissions programs at two universities] was actually issued. So at this point, I don’t know what we’re going to do. I know that there are suggestions about how we can try to compensate. I do think diversity is important. I think it has an influence on the quality of our education and also choice of research topics.

What are you confident about? What are you worried about?
What I’m confident about is the quality of the faculty and students. I think we have an extraordinary faculty, and that draws extraordinary students. So despite the various controversies going on right now, I don’t see those as threatening the fundamental quality of what we have to offer.
But certainly there are worries. Right now, the [disintegration] of the Pac-12 is an issue because we do have a good number of students who are heavily invested in that. We also have a lot of alumni who are really concerned about it. I’m very glad that [Hoover Institution director and Stanford political scientist] Condi Rice has agreed to be my special adviser on that. She—as a former secretary of state—is adept at negotiations. Whether that’ll get resolved before I actually start my term, I don’t know.

And then student mental health on campus. I think that’s a really hard one because it is, in part, a product of a broader environment than just the university. We don’t control everything that affects student mental health. The university has been putting in more and more resources, going back to the time I was dean. But it’s not as if we’ve solved the problem [or] met the challenge.

**What do you want alumni to know about Stanford’s near-term path?**

What’s important to me is to make sure we don’t lose our focus on what our fundamental purpose is. And that is excellence in research, teaching, and clinical care with integrity. I think there’s a danger in the current political environment in the country of thinking that our purpose has to be polemical. I think it’s essential that the university be a place for open—and hopefully respectful—debate.

**You were provost at the University of Chicago. What kind of person does Stanford need in that role?**

I think it’s important that I feel confident that the provost and I share values and are not working at cross purposes. The provost has a primary responsibility for internal decisions about academics and budget in the university. I want somebody who has the character to do the right thing on controversial subjects. It needs to be somebody who can say no, but can say no in a way that leaves as little resentment as possible.

**Your wife is professor of anthropology Tanya Luhrmann. You have two sons. Tell us about your family and hobbies.**

[My sons] are partners in a craft brewery in Chicago, Burnt City. They started out making beer in my basement, in a nanobrewery that exploded. I’m not sure the basement ever recovered. I think they decided they wanted to go into a profession that was as far away from the academy as possible. They’re doing well. And Tanya is one of the leading anthropologists in the world. She was awarded an honorary doctorate in Copenhagen last November and was introduced to the queen of Denmark as part of the ceremony. I was impressed by that.

There’s not anything I like much better than riding in the mountains up to Skyline. And then one thing I will miss in the coming year is cooking every day. One of my therapies is to go home and chop onions or grill something. Through COVID, what I really came to like is making my own pizza.

**Are students going to see you in Gaieties this fall?**

Maybe it depends on what’s expected of me. I really am not a performer.

**It’s typically a very cameo role.**

Well, then, that’s OK. But back when I was a professor at Chicago, the graduate students in the history department used to do a secret theatrical roast of faculty. And apparently they were pretty brutal in their caricatures. I asked my particularly close graduate student how they spoofed me, and he said, “You’re too boring.” So that’s the way I think of myself.

**Why take on the interim president role? It’s not exactly a low-stress job—or maybe you thrive in that situation?**

It’s an honor to be the president of Stanford University. I expect it to be invigorating and rewarding just because there is so much at stake in preserving and advancing a great institution. I also think if the country can be run by an 80-year-old president, surely I, as a 70-year-old, can manage a university. Although the scale is really daunting. My understanding is that this year, the hospital and university budgets combined will amount to $19 billion, which is bigger than the budgets of 13 U.S. states. It’s a huge and complex enterprise. And I’ll bet governors of those states can give more direct orders and have them followed than a president of a university.

**Meet the Next Provost**

**JENNY MARTINEZ,** who will become provost on October 1, has been the dean of Stanford Law School since 2019. A noted scholar of international law and constitutional law, she joined the faculty in 2003. “As dean, she has been a champion of inclusion, and a clear and reasoned voice for academic freedom,” said interim president Richard Saller in announcing her appointment.

“I’m honored to take on this role and work in partnership with Richard to get the new academic year off to a good start,” Martinez told Stanford Report. “I am looking forward to listening to members of our community about how best to advance our core missions of education and research in the coming months and years.”

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**Summer Moore Batte, ’99, is the editor of Stanfordmag.org and of the Loop newsletter. Email her at summerm@stanford.edu.**
Jack Cardoza of Peninsula Lithography, center, shows off the first cover to magazine staffers Della van Heyst, Peter Voll, ’65, Cynthia Fry Gunn, ’70, Debby Fife, and Kay Daley, ’48.
For 50 years, STANFORD has been telling the story of the university and its alumni.

See what else just became vintage.

Some of the goings-on in the 1973–74 school year seem perennial. Escalating food costs plagued the dining halls. Professors debated the extent of academic freedom. A pair of fraternity brothers plotted to steal the Axe from Cal.

Other events were more particular to the era. A professor witnessed a coup in Chile. A benefactor committed to donating 89 Rodin sculptures. Skylab 3 orbited Earth with Stanford’s first astronaut aboard.

Against that backdrop, an alumni magazine debuted. It was part of a renaissance among campus publications—the Alumni Association’s Stanford Alumni Almanac had recently become a quarterly supplement to the university’s monthly Stanford Observer newspaper, and the Stanford Daily had established its independence from the university the previous winter. In the 50 years since, STANFORD has chronicled the story of the university and its alumni, from scholarship to sports, history to humor, profiles to poems.

On the pages that follow, we take a look into a selection of events from the academic year of our birth, and how they have affected our community since.

—Kathy Zonana, ’93, JD ’96
progenitor of Stanford began with a bang in 1899. Volume I of the Stanford Alumnus led with news of Jane Stanford’s infusion of $15 million, which vaulted the school from near penury to among the world’s richest universities. The Alumnus, however, spent more ink bemoaning the stunning stipulation of Mrs. Stanford’s munificence: that female enrollment be capped at 500. “In this matter of equal education for both sexes the University may voluntarily withdraw from its proud and honorable leadership to tag on the tail of the process,” it observed. “But the procession will go on just the same.”

It was a punchy beginning to a nearly seven-decade run. But by 1967, the Stanford Review—as it had been renamed—was no more. Once unique, the magazine—a product of the then-independent Stanford Alumni Association—was struggling for relevance against the university’s own periodicals: Stanford Today and the Stanford Observer. “It is better to go out on top than to slide downhill,” alumni association board president Robert Golden, ’41, wrote in farewell. “This association exists to serve the University, not to compete with it.”

That didn’t settle the matter for the Review’s design editor, Della van Heyst, a dynamic character who would establish a long record of delivering on new visions, including creating a vaunted on-campus publishing course for book and magazine professionals. Publications like the Observer served a purpose, she thought, but they were black-and-white affairs printed on newsprint. “I kept saying it was not becoming to a great university like Stanford not to have a showcase.”

The Stanford Magazine (The fell off the title in 1989, Magazine in 1996) first rolled off the presses in the fall of 1973. The cover photo of a sandstone cornice corresponded to no story; Class Notes weren’t yet incorporated; and the issue’s five-page transcribed lecture about the guilty plea defies all contemporary ideas about reader attention spans. But in many ways, the first issue set a blueprint that holds 50 years later. There was in-depth exploration of research in a story on chimps in Tanzania co-written by famed primatologist and visiting professor Jane Goodall; a think piece on being American by Wallace Stegner, founder of Stanford’s creative writing program; and an illustrated history of the Stanford Band, which had somehow just opened its ranks to women the year before.

One of the pleasures in perusing early copies of the magazine is a sense of how close and far the past can seem at the same time. Our feature on artificial intelligence this July had a far superior headline (“Me, Myself, and AI”) to our 1978 story on the same subject (“Artificial Intelligence”), but they both talked about beating the Turing Test. Other stories captured a past that feels more distant than a half-century ago. A 1974 piece on student jobs led off with a 6’5” sophomore paid $2.50 an hour to don a helmet, heavy gloves, and coveralls to snare feral cats in the ancient and narrow steam tunnels under the Main Quad. His tools: a flashlight, cat food, and a three-foot-long trap.

Then as now, the magazine operated under cost constraints, so van Heyst—who served as editor in chief—took advantage of the publishing course to reel in expert advice. She remembers leaders from National Geographic stressing that three-word headlines were all readers could handle, as well as spicier tips from David Brown, ’36, the producer of Jaws, who also wrote cover blurbs for Cosmopolitan, the oft-titillating women’s magazine helmed by his wife, Helen Gurley Brown. “We’d say, ‘How would David Brown write this even though we can’t put sex in the
Title?” van Heyst says. “We learned from absolutely the very best.” The real secret may, however, have been the irrepressibility of van Heyst herself. “She was like the player on a basketball team that makes everyone else better,” says Debby Fife, who edited the magazine for its first decade and a half.

A perennial goal—and challenge—for the magazine is to capture the full range of the Stanford community. In spring 1983, the magazine linked its profiles of astronaut Sally Ride, ’73, MS ’75, PhD ’78, and Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, ’50, LLB ’52, to the 50th anniversary of the demise of Jane Stanford’s 500 rule: “[W]e have tipped the editorial balance a bit by running two articles about Stanford women who have broken barriers recently.” That earned a scoff from a reader unimpressed by an issue in which two out of five features were about women (and all five were written by men).

“I hope you didn’t mean to suggest we have to wait another 50 years or for other fabulous firsts to read more by and about and for Stanford women,” she wrote.

Ten years later, Stanford Magazine sparked administrative concerns (which van Heyst, in her Stanford swan song, disregarded) when it ran a cover package looking at gay life and history at the university. “We were saying, ‘Yeah, we’re an alumni association for all alumni, and that absolutely includes the gay community,’” says Bruce Anderson, ’79, a former reporter for Sports Illustrated who served as the magazine’s editor from 1991 to 1995. That may not sound revolutionary today, but 20 years before the Supreme Court legalized gay marriage, when even holding a gay commitment ceremony in Memorial Church was historic, the topic was charged. No other issue in his time as editor generated nearly as much reader response, Anderson says, and some of it was raging.

But in contradiction of the general rule that angry people write the letters, the large majority praised the story.

Anderson was succeeded in 1996 by Bob Cohn, ’85, who left his perch covering the White House for Newsweek to return to campus. Early in his tenure, he rebranded Stanford Magazine as Stanford. With the dawn of the World Wide Web, the word magazine didn’t seem as relevant, he says. (This, he knows, didn’t exactly bear out. Cohn is now president of the Economist, which still calls itself a “newspaper” despite publishing constantly online.)

Cohn also navigated the recurrence of the old battle for eyeballs that had doomed Stanford’s precursor in 1967. In 1996, the university revived Stanford Today as an insert to the magazine. The two entities even rotated who got the cover story. It was an odd hybrid that gave the university responsibility for news and left the magazine mostly with features. It ended in 1998 after alumni association members voted to merge with the university, and the magazine again resumed one voice. “It was an important development,” Cohn says. “We were given the full breadth of responsibility, accountability, and opportunity to write about Stanford.”

Kevin Cool, who took the magazine’s helm in 2000, would lead it through the next two decades. When he thinks about the publication’s impact, he harks back to a 2011 cover story about Frost Amphitheater. Someone had noticed memorabilia for sale from a long-ago concert there by guitar god Eric Clapton, which was hard to imagine given the venue’s forlorn state. The subsequent article, “A Place in the Sun,” illustrated Frost’s forgotten history as a magnet for rock, folk, and jazz concerts through the ’60s, ’70s, and ’80s. It ended wistfully: “The memory of dancing to live rock on a sun-kissed afternoon with nothing but blue sky above you exerts a powerful pull.” The following year, the Frost Music & Arts Festival was formed, beginning a revival that culminated in a 2019 renovation.

“This is how I think we can legitimately be credited with starting that ball rolling,” Cool says. “We’re all of Stanford.” And so I think it’s OK to take some pride in leaving some small mark on the university.”

Perhaps the most provocative story during his tenure was about an even older icon. Based on the in-depth research of Stanford physician Robert W.P. Cutler, ”Who Killed Jane Stanford?: A Gilded Age Tale of Murder, Deceit, Spirits, and the Birth of a University.” Naturally, Stanford reviewed it. “The legal scaffolding supporting the nascent university was precarious at best; the vaunted matriarch, beneficent and beloved, sometimes brandished her money as a bludgeon, propelled by the spirit voices of her deceased loved ones,” wrote Susan Wolfe, ’81.

“It turns out there were many who had cause to wish her dead.”

Stanford has taken its share of criticism over the years too. While we may not be perfect, at least we’re perfect bound.

—Sam Scott
89 Rodins Find a New Home

WHEN B. GERALD CANTOR, an “obsessed” collector of Auguste Rodin sculptures, first visited Stanford in 1973, he was wowed.

“I had an immediate affinity with the place; it had everything, a beautiful 19th-century building with a rotunda, which dates from Rodin’s lifetime, and large exterior space for a sculpture garden, which I paced off,” said the Beverly Hills investment banker, according to the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Foundation website.

In February 1974, Cantor and his wife made a remarkable gift to Stanford of 89 Rodins; ultimately, the couple would help build the university’s collection into the largest one beyond that of the Musée Rodin in Paris.

The bronze figures have made Stanford a haven for Rodin research, first led by the late art professor Albert Elsen, who championed the realization of the outdoor sculpture garden, where passersby find inspiration 24 hours a day. One such visitor: James Chang, ’87, a Stanford professor of plastic and reconstructive surgery who in 2014 collaborated with a curator on an exhibit about the various maladies evident in the sculptures’ hands, from Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease to a ganglion cyst.

—Christine Foster

SCULPTING A COLLECTION: Cantor and Elsen (top left, with Walking Man) worked together to build a home for Rodin research that today includes (clockwise from top right) a nude study of Jean d’Aire, whose full-size, clothed counterpart is among the Burghers of Calais now installed in the Quad; hands that have become the subject of their own exhibit; and an outdoor garden where courses are taught.

A Godfather Delivers a Ransom Payment

WHEN JOHN PAUL GETTY III was kidnapped in Italy in July 1973, his grandfather J. Paul Getty initially refused to pay for the teenager’s release. The oil tycoon agreed to turn over $2.2 million several months later and only after the kidnappers severed the boy’s ear and mailed it to the family. (J. Paul Getty Jr., the teen’s dad, paid an additional sum, which he borrowed from Getty Sr.) Getty Jr.’s good friend William Newsom III, JD ’61, MA ’63, then a lawyer in Tahoe City, Calif., helped deliver the ransom. Newsom was John Paul Getty III’s godfather, represented the boy’s parents in their divorce, and managed trusts for the Getty family. In an oral history, Newsom described the ransom delivery as “an interesting sort of job”; he went on to have others. Gov. Jerry Brown appointed him as a judge on the Placer County Superior Court in 1975 and to a California appellate court in 1978. (Newsom’s son, Gavin, would succeed Brown in 2019, after Brown’s second stint as California’s governor.) In 1995, Newsom retired to work full time for the Getty family, whom he described as “almost an extension of my own.” He died in 2018.

—Rebecca Beyer
OVER 50 YEARS, Stanford’s aquatics complex has seen it all—flip turns of six dozen Olympic swimmers at practice, frolicking frosh at New Student Orientation’s MuFuUnSun, two women’s water polo titles before a home crowd.

Originally named for the deGuerre family, the center opened in November 1973 at a cost of $2 million. Combined with the passage of Title IX the year before, the new pool provided robust opportunities, especially for women. Today, swimmers Jenny Thompson, ’95, and Katie Ledecky, ’21, hold spots one and two on the list of most decorated Cardinal Olympians.

Rebuilt at the turn of the century and renamed Avery Aquatic Center, the facility still features that main pool. “[It] has pretty much stayed the same. But the complex as a whole has changed a lot,” says David Shinkle, assistant director of facilities for Stanford Athletics. “I would say [it’s] the best outdoor swimming facility in the country, probably top five in the world.”

Shinkle keeps the now middle-aged pool going. “Some of the piping is original, so that’s insane,” he says. “To be able to say, ‘Well, this pool has been here for 50 years, even through the different alterations of it,’ is really awesome.”

—C.F.

The Winds of Freedom

H. Bruce Franklin, PhD ’61, an associate professor of English who was accused of making antiwar speeches that incited lawbreaking and violence.

The faculty disciplinary statement has long since been overhauled. But the 1974 Statement on Academic Freedom endures. “Stanford University’s central functions of teaching, learning, research, and scholarship depend upon an atmosphere in which freedom of inquiry, thought, expression, publication, and peaceable assembly are given the fullest protection,” it begins. “Expression of the widest range of viewpoints should be encouraged, free from institutional orthodoxy and from internal or external coercion.”

—K.Z.
As a high school senior in 1974, Jeff Stone was torn between the opportunities of a large university and the intimacy of a small liberal arts college. It was only after choosing Stanford that he saw an option that seemed to promise the best of both. He enrolled in the Structured Liberal Education (SLE) program, a yearlong dive into the canon in which students live together in the same dorms as they study the same texts and attend the same lectures.

Taking SLE was a speculative move based on reading a few paragraphs in the Approaching Stanford booklet. He had little else by which to judge it; SLE had only launched the year before. But Stone, ’78, says the experience—wrestling with great thinkers in their own words, confronting big philosophical questions, and honing his own arguments before professors, lecturers, and tutors—was all he had hoped. His two years in SLE—one as a student, the other as a tutor—still shape the way he sees the world.

“It affected the way I write and the way I think and the way I speak,” says Stone, a trial attorney and, since 2018, a Stanford trustee. “It changed my life in many, many ways, all for the better.”

Fifty years later, SLE (“slee,” for the uninitiated) is Stanford’s longest-running frosh humanities program. And in a world where so many people view higher education as job preparation, SLE’s proud embrace of rigorous learning for learning’s sake can make it seem more unusual as it ages. The 8-unit-per-quarter program represents roughly half of a first-year student’s coursework, with much of that time spent reading, writing, and rewriting. “You write an essay and then your tutor puts red marks all over it,” says Gabriela Teodorescu Bockhaus, ’96. “And that process happens three, four, five times with each essay. You really learn how to write and how to build an argument.” In an academic career that included studying at Oxford as a Marshall Scholar, there’s no question, she says, that SLE was her most meaningful educational experience.

While it’s not for everyone, SLE has traditionally had no trouble drawing newcomers. Each year, it enrolls around 90 frosh, who live in two houses in East Florence Moore Hall, where all SLE lectures, discussion sections, and film screenings take place. The result is a version of undergraduate life in which students can live and breathe the ideas that they’re tackling together. Discussions on Plato’s Republic, Toni Morrison’s Beloved, or Ingmar Bergman’s The Seventh Seal can easily flow into dinner. And indeed, that’s where much of the learning occurs.

“Not everybody wants to talk about the meaning of the good life at 10:00 on a Saturday night,” Stone explains. Ironically, if it weren’t for a raging fraternity party, SLE might never have been born. In 1966, a toga party at the Phi Delta Theta house got so out of hand that it ended up as front-page news. The university suspended the Phi Delts, and their vacant house became home to the Grove Project, the university’s first co-ed residence, an experiment in residential education led by history professor Mark Mancall. All students in the house participated in a
common seminar, though dinner table discussion was perhaps an even more important focus. The purpose, Mancall told the Daily, was to “show that a university the size of Stanford can create a situation in which intellectual life and the living situation are not divorced.”

The project was generally a success, says Jon Reider, ’67, PhD ’83, who lived in Grove House and later taught in SLE. “But we really needed to have something with a good deal more structure.” In the fall of 1973, Mancall started SLE. In part, his motivations were as timeless as those of any liberal arts professor spreading the Socratic dictum that “the unexamined life is not worth living.” Mancall wanted to educate students, he later told the Stanford Historical Society, “according to a classic answer to the question of ‘What is important to know? What is important to understand?’” But Mancall—who died in 2020—was also motivated by the realities of his day, particularly a rising campus radicalism he saw as unconnected to reason and deep thought. “He wanted to keep the students from being too crazy and too radical,” Reider says.

NATURALLY, SLE attracts students intent on majoring in the humanities, but it also appeals to students who pursue—or think they will pursue—other academic paths. Greg Watkins, ’85, PhD ’03, a former SLE student who retired this year after more than two decades as a lecturer in the program, arrived at Stanford planning to study chemical engineering en route to medical school. SLE was simply a way to knock out his humanities requirements. It was his awe at The Seventh Seal—and the trauma of organic chemistry—that persuaded him to reconsider. He ended up designing his own major—social theory—that he pursued him to reconsider. He ended up designing his own major—social theory—that he pursued.

Today, the program remains heavily rooted in the Western canon: The ancient Greeks still get long and close attention, as do Marx, Shakespeare, Dante, Nietzsche, et al. But for decades, European works haven’t been the exclusive focus. More than 30 years ago, Priya Satia, ’95, a Stanford history professor, chose SLE because of the diversity of the syllabus. “We read the Bible, but we also read the Gita, we also read texts from the Muslim world,” she says. And it was in SLE that she first read the Afro-Caribbean philosopher Frantz Fanon, a leader of postcolonial thought whose book The Wretched of the Earth she has “worked with and taught with” her entire career.

Some still argue that the coursework needs more diversity. Watkins acknowledges those concerns but points out that SLE doesn’t expect students to revere the works they study. Part of the purpose is to give students the intellectual ammunition to engage with the Western canon “even if you’re going to burn it down.” But certainly, attitudes can shift the other way too. Chana Lanter, ’25, arrived in SLE two years ago as a prospective Middle Eastern studies major eager to take on the Western canon—mostly to be rid of it. Her enmity didn’t last long. “I have just been humbled,” she says. “I’m not smarter than Socrates. That’s OK. Why don’t we just read him and see what he has to say?”

One of Lee’s favorite memories from SLE was going to dinner immediately after lectures on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. “We sit down and it’s like, ‘All right, what do people think about the lecture?’” he says. “Then we’d argue back and forth about what we thought was good, what we thought was bad, and what we thought was really stupid.” Even when discussions inevitably range beyond academics, there is a tendency for analysis and debate to break out. “The other day we spent two hours arguing whether water was wet or not,” says Guru, an international student from Papua New Guinea. “Everyone has something to say, some argument. And then people take sides or bounce ideas off each other.”

For Stone, that conversation never stopped. No single thinker he studied nearly 50 years ago had a monopoly on truth, he says, but reading them gave him different perspectives on truth that he still uses, whether it’s thinking of Nietzsche, the nihilist philosopher, when he regards certain modern politicians, or tragedian Aeschylus when he sees law clients brought down by an inability to get out of their own way. And those big questions from the first quarter of his frosh year—what is it to live a good life, to have a just society?—still resound in his thoughts. “SLE taught me that these kinds of questions are not limited to a freshman seminar,” he says. “They can be part of a life journey.” —S.S.
THE EARLY ‘70S WERE A TIME of transformation for Stanford’s Indigenous community. A student population that had numbered in the single digits as late as 1969 pushed the school to increase Native enrollment and to better support Indigenous students already on the Farm. The immediate results of their efforts still resound today, from the founding of the Stanford American Indian Organization in 1970 to the beginnings of Powwow in 1971 to the opening of the Native American Cultural Center (NACC) on February 23, 1974. The latter occasion was marked by dancing “that lasted until the birds took over the singing,” Evelina Zuni Lucero, ’75, later remembered. Fifty years on, the NACC is the thread that runs through all Stanford Native life, says interim director Constance Owl, ’18. “It is definitely the hub,” she says, “but more so the home of the Native community on campus,” which now surpasses 450 students. Owl and her partner, Matthew Yellowtail, ’18—resident fellows in the Native theme house Muwekma-Tah-Ruk—are working to document the NACC’s history and legacy. “I feel like it’s on our shoulders to maintain that as we go into the future.” she says.

—S.S.

STANFORD PROFESSOR of Spanish and Portuguese Fernando Alegría was a poet, a novelist, and a literary critic. In September 1973, he was also banned from his native Chile by the dictator Augusto Pinochet, who led a military coup that month, supported by the United States, that deposed Chile’s democratically elected president Salvador Allende, who died by suicide during the takeover. Allende and Alegría were friends; Allende used Alegría’s poem ¡Viva Chile Mierda! in his 1964 campaign. After Allende’s election in 1970, he named Alegría his cultural attaché in Washington, D.C. Alegría was in Santiago at the time of the coup. The Stanford Daily reported that he had “no difficulty” leaving the country after Pinochet took over, but, according to people close to him, Alegría was able to do so only with help from Stanford and the U.S. Department of State; he was apparently disguised as either a nun or a priest. Alegría was a leading voice of the Chilean exile community in the United States and later wrote a novel based on Allende’s life and death. He retired from Stanford in 1988 and died in 2005.

—R.B.
Steps Toward Saving Salamanders Are Set in Motion

ON A WARM, RAINY NIGHT in the winter of 1990, biologists Mike Westphal and Rich Seymour were driving down Junipero Serra Boulevard, scouring the street for hints of movement, when Westphal slammed on the brakes. Waddling across the wet roadway was a California tiger salamander, a species that hadn’t been reported on campus in decades. Farther down: a graveyard of “deaders” flattened by cars. This was a problem.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 was enacted to provide a process for identifying and conserving at-risk animals and plants, and restricts the use of their habitats to activities permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (F&W). “You get a listed [species] on your central campus without a permit, and you’ve got some issues,” says Alan Launer, ’81, MS ’82, Stanford’s director of conservation planning.

Ambystoma californiense wasn’t yet on the list, but the university needed a strategy to protect the mud dweller, lest routine operations—replacing aging pipes or evicting salamanders from utility boxes—become prohibited by law.

By 2004, when the salamanders were declared threatened (a less grave status than endangered), the university had designated protected space for the amphibians, discontinued the annual Big Game bonfire at Lake Lagunita, built wildlife tunnels under Junipero Serra Boulevard, and dug eight breeding ponds in the Foothills. Its agreement with the F&W also covers the threatened California red-legged frog and “an intergrade population of garter snake.”

With luck, this fall hundreds of juvenile tiger salamanders will totter from Lake Lag to the Foothills as members of what is believed to be the last remaining population on the San Francisco Peninsula.

—Kali Shiloh

A Sequel for Supersonic Flight?

ITS MOTTO BOASTED “ARRIVE BEFORE YOU LEAVE,” and, in a sense, the Concorde delivered. In September 1973, the supersonic jet made its first transatlantic voyage in 3 hours and 32 minutes, a record-setting clip that meant westbound flights would arrive in the United States well before their departure from Europe, in terms of local time. But within three decades, the Concorde—and civilian supersonic travel—had disappeared, defeated not least by the ear-splitting noise that got it banned from overland routes. Tim MacDonald, MA ’15, PhD ’20, and Norris Tie, MBA ’19, hope to overcome that challenge.

The founders of Exosonic have plans for the world’s first “low boom” supersonic passenger jet—capable of breaking the sound barrier with more of a whimper than a bang. They face a range of economic, environmental, and regulatory hurdles but say subsonic limits can’t last forever. “Aviation has gone backwards, and that’s not supposed to happen,” Tie, Exosonic’s CEO, told STANFORD in 2021.

—S.S.
When the school of nursing opened in 1895, country girls were preferred. “They were accustomed to hard work, and they were accustomed to life and death,” says Eleanor Hedenkamp, ‘66, historian for Stanford Nurse Alumnae. The first nursing students worked 12 to 18 hours a day, seven days a week.

At the time, they attended what was known as Lane Hospital Training School for Nursing, a counterpart to Cooper Medical College. The nursing program was founded in San Francisco by physician and surgeon Levi Cooper Lane to supply nurses to the nearby hospital. Stanford acquired both schools in 1912, and they later became Stanford University School of Medicine and its subsidiary, the Stanford University School of Nursing.

To the dismay of its students and faculty, the nursing program closed at the end of the 1973–74 academic year. Still, 50 years later, its devoted alumnae—galvanized by their experience in the once-thriving program—are supporting the next generation of nurses at Stanford Medicine and beyond.

In its first several decades, the nursing school faced a number of challenges. During the Great Depression, a bandage shortage plagued the hospital, so nursing students soaked all bandages and sent them to be sterilized, reusing them for up to a year. During World War II, a nationwide shortage of nurses led the program to double its enrollment.

In 1959, the nursing school moved from San Francisco to Stanford’s campus. By the time Hedenkamp and her classmates attended in the ’60s, the program—not technically a school but rather an academic major leading to a bachelor of nursing degree—had been fully integrated into the university. Students were admitted as regular undergraduates and took general education courses for their first two years. “Everybody I knew was there, first and foremost, to get a good education,” says Patti Fry, ’72, MBA ’77.

Whether already at Stanford or hoping to transfer in, prospective nursing students applied to the program as sophomores and then spent the next three years partly in a clinical setting. The all-female cohorts were small, with about 20 students per graduating class, and as the women worked together in the hospital, they formed a tight bond. They were united, too, by less profound experiences. Classmates, for example, wore identical uniforms—knee- or ankle-length dresses, with white aprons and starched white collars. “Do you know how they chose that god-awful brown-gray?” says Hedenkamp, whose cohort detested its assigned uniform. “The interior decorator chose the color so it would go well with the walls.”

They studied pharmacology, obstetrics, communicable diseases, and psychiatric nursing. It was a patient-centered curriculum, and one course required the students to make multiple home visits both before and after a patient’s treatment. “Man, that has stayed with me,” says Janet Darrow, ’74.

THINKING CAPS: Stanford-trained nurses went on to earn advanced degrees, train health care workers internationally, and serve as faculty at other institutions.
When she visited the home of her patient, a child preparing for surgery, the mother was emotionally struggling to cope with the symptoms of her child’s condition. “Being there for that family, in their own home, where they’re comfortable—we saw health care from all these different aspects.”

As they completed their clinical hours, the nursing students gained skills alongside Stanford medical students, interns, and residents, and learned to work as a team. Darrow still remembers being taught to gown and glove up before entering an operating room. The med student next to her was as nervous as she was. “You bond, in a way, and understand each other’s insecurities,” says Darrow. “You see each other as people who care about doing it right and want the best for the patient.”

While Stanford medical trainees worked shoulder to shoulder, there remained deep gender divides in the field nationally. Nancy Clum, ’72, president of Stanford Nurse Alumnae, remembers nurses, most of whom were female, being subservient to doctors, the majority of whom were male. And that wasn’t just when it came to making diagnoses. “In other parts of the country, nurses were still [expected to stand] at the nurses’ station when physicians came into the area,” Clum says.

Nursing, as a profession, did not always garner respect. Hedenkamp remembers her high school adviser asking: “Why do you want to be a nurse? You’re smart enough to be a doctor.” Hedenkamp’s response: “I want to treat people, not disease.” Indeed, although nursing was among the few professional careers readily open to women, many alumnae say they pursued it out of passion, not necessity.

After earning their bachelor’s, many continued their nursing education, earning advanced degrees at other institutions. Some returned to Stanford’s hospitals, but others took their training farther afield. Helen Murphy-Robinson, ’72, trained health care workers in Afghanistan and at refugee camps in Thailand. Some alumnae left nursing to raise children, go to medical school, or switch to other fields. Several served as faculty at nursing schools, and Elisabeth Zinser, ’64, became the first female president of the University of Idaho.

In 1970, with a nationwide financial crisis forcing the Medical School to reassess its priorities, Stanford appointed a task force to study nursing education. The task force ultimately recommended that the nursing bachelor’s degree be replaced with a master’s, but in 1974, in the absence of a clear plan for offering a graduate degree, the program closed indefinitely. The Medical School’s then-dean, Clayton Rich, cited a lack of funds as the reason. “I am very anxious to see the nursing school open up again,” Rich said in a Stanford Daily article on May 21, 1974. “On the other hand, I want to see the program have enough resources so we can have a strong program.”

Over the past five decades, the program’s alumnae have found ways to support current and prospective nurses at their alma mater. Stanford Nurse Alumnae has remained active since the program’s closure, with about 200 current members, the youngest in their 70s. The group holds an annual brunch for undergraduates interested in nursing: funds a Cardinal Quarter, in which students interested in nursing can engage in full-time public service work; funds postdoctoral nursing fellowships at Stanford Hospital; and contributes thousands of dollars to nursing research projects at the Medical School, where there are now eight nurse scientists with PhDs on faculty. “We feel like we’re making progress in that some of these people—the postdocs, etc.—have really demonstrated to the School of Medicine how valuable nurses can be,” Hedenkamp says.

As a clinical nurse specialist at Stanford, Hedenkamp worked with children with heart disease and often treated the same patients for years. In her home today, she keeps reminders of them amid the photos and art hanging on the walls. One, she points out, is an etching of a young heart transplant patient done by the girl’s father, who was an artist. She can rattle off the stories and personalities of past patients as if they were her own children. It was the deep relationship between nurse and patient that originally drew her to the profession. Thanks to those relationships, she loved her career, her education at Stanford, and even her time in those god-awful brown-gray uniforms. “I would do it again,” she says, “in a heartbeat.”

—K.S.
At about noon on October 31, 2018, John Getreu, a 74-year-old living in Hayward, Calif., got a ride from his wife to a medical building in nearby Union City. Two Santa Clara County sheriff’s investigators watched as he walked to the pharmacy, stopped to buy a cup of coffee from a kiosk, sat down to drink it, and tossed the empty cup into a garbage can.

Getreu had no idea that his DNA on that cup would provide a key piece of evidence linking him to two of the four decades-old cold cases, the so-called Stanford Murders, that terrified the campus community between February 1973 and October 1974. The evidence languished in boxes, despite repeated sleuthing efforts by law enforcement, until modern advances in DNA techniques would finally break open three of the cases and create new hope for solving the fourth.

On that Halloween day, the two deputies waited until Getreu was out of sight, then retrieved his coffee cup from the garbage can, sending it along to the Santa Clara County crime lab for DNA analysis, says Sgt. Noe Cortez, the lead investigator in one of the cases. And then they waited, like the families of the victims had been waiting for decades, to see whether a killer had been caught.

**DURING THE 1970s**, the Bay Area had come to be known as a stomping ground for murderers, cursed as it was by such high-profile serial killers as Ed Kemper, who murdered 10 people, stalking young female hitchhikers in the vicinity of Santa Cruz, and the still-unidentified Zodiac killer, who murdered at least five people in secluded areas near San Francisco. The Stanford Murders, coming as they did every few months without a single arrest, brought the fear home to campus.

“The scenario was becoming tragically, frighteningly familiar,” said one Stanford Daily story at the time. “After four unsolved homicides, Stanford is a decidedly grimmer place than the country club most students chose to attend.” Infamous serial killer Ted Bundy was briefly considered a suspect in one of the cases. Another of the murders, which occurred inside Memorial Church, generated rumors of satanic rituals.

The murders began in February 1973 with the death of Leslie Perlov, ’72, a 21-year-old recent graduate who worked at a law library in Palo Alto. Sheriff’s investigators found her strangled body, which showed signs of sexual assault, in the Foothills above campus. Seven months later, the body of David Levine, a 20-year-old physics student who was working late at night in a lab, was found on campus in front of Meyer Library. He had been stabbed several times in the back with a knife. The third murder victim, 21-year-old Janet Taylor, was the daughter of former Stanford athletic director Chuck Taylor, ’43, MA ’47. Like Perlov, she appeared to have been sexually assaulted and was killed by strangulation. Her body was found by a passing milkman alongside Sand Hill Road west of Interstate 280 in March 1974.

And then, with no suspects arrested in any of the previous three murders, there was yet another. On the night of October 12, 1974, Arlis Perry, a 19-year-old newlywed, got into an argument with her husband, a Stanford premed student. Around 11 p.m., she walked to Memorial Church to pray. Her husband, worried when she didn’t return to their Escondido Village apartment, reported her missing around 3 in the morning. At 5:45 a.m., Stanford security guard Stephen Crawford called police to report he’d found a dead body lying between pews when he unlocked the church doors that morning.

“We have a stiff in here,” Crawford is heard saying in a sheriff’s recording of his phone call. It was Perry. She had been sexually assaulted with candles and stabbed in the back of the head, according to a Stanford Daily report at the time. Crawford was a person of interest. But there was never enough evidence to charge him with her murder. And so it remained for four decades.

**FAST-FORWARD TO 2016.** Cold case investigators for the Santa Clara County Sheriff’s Office brought in an old suspect in the Perry case for questioning, but this time with new evidence. In the 1970s, DNA testing didn’t exist as a forensic tool. That began in the late 1980s, and as DNA testing became more sensitive, investigators would routinely run new versions of it on evidence from cold cases, hoping for leads.

Cold case investigators also meticulously pored through boxes of stored evidence in the Stanford Murders, reexamining reams of old newspaper articles, recordings of
The lead detective in the Perry case, Lt. Rick Alanis, made a surprising discovery. The pants labeled as Perry’s were far too large to have fit her. They had actually belonged to her husband. When Perry’s own pants were sent in for analysis in 2016, DNA from semen found on them matched with that of Stephen Crawford, the former Stanford security guard. After additional investigative work, detectives went to Crawford’s San Jose studio apartment in 2018 with a search warrant. Shortly after they arrived, he shot himself in the head.

Investigators considered the Perry case resolved and thought perhaps other Stanford Murders would soon be too. Cortez, who was part of the team sent to arrest Crawford, had also been assigned in 2016 to lead the reinvestigation into the Leslie Perlov case.

Perlov was last seen at her place of employment when she went missing on February 13, 1973. That same day, her orange Chevrolet Nova was found parked near the intersection of Old Page Mill Road and Page Mill Road. Three days later, her body was found northwest of her car under an oak tree, a scarf around her neck.

“I believe she fought for her life,” Cortez says. He sent her fingernail clippings, preserved as evidence, to the county lab, where criminologists found unidentifiable male DNA on them. In the past, the investigation might have stalled there, but this time there was a newer method of DNA analysis to try.

This method, known as forensic genetic genealogy, has grown increasingly popular with law enforcement since 2018, when it was used to identify Joseph James DeAngelo Jr. as the Golden State Killer. It allows law enforcement to compare DNA samples collected from crime scenes with those submitted by the public to companies that offer genetic testing, such as Ancestry.com. “It’s because one person shares a large enough amount of genetic material with dozens of relatives, many of whom they might not even know, that forensic genetic genealogy can find new connections,” says Noah Rosenberg, MS ’99, PhD ’02, a Stanford professor of biology whose lab studies the practice. The method has raised privacy concerns, prompting some DNA testing companies to inform customers that their genetic information could be used by police, but it is also a powerful technique, he says. “It’s now been used to solve hundreds of cold cases across many jurisdictions.”

Including Perlov’s. The genetic genealogy company from which Cortez had requested the analysis sent back the name of a suspect.

“It wasn’t Crawford’s,” Cortez says. The DNA, he says, belonged to a different former employee.

John Getreu, who had worked as a lab tech at Stanford around the time of the murder, had been convicted of rape and murder in Germany when he was 18 years old, Cortez says. And he was living nearby in Hayward.

The final step was for investigators to confirm the DNA match by linking current DNA from Getreu to the DNA profile found on the fingernail clippings. Enter Getreu’s discarded coffee cup. A week after sending it to the lab, investigators heard back. Getreu was a match. He was arrested 11 days later at his home. He also immediately became a suspect in the Taylor case due to the similar circumstances surrounding the two murders.

On the day Getreu was arrested, Cortez called Diane Perlov, Leslie’s sister. Diane was forever her sister’s champion, says Lt. Shannon “Cat” Catalano, a member of the Santa Clara County team working the Perlov case. She made sure Leslie was never forgotten and pushed investigators to solve her case.

“Diane, we got him. He’s in jail,” Cortez said that day over the phone.

Getreu was charged with Taylor’s murder that same year, based on evidence that showed that DNA obtained during his arrest matched DNA swabbed from the inside of Taylor’s pants. In 2021, he was convicted of her murder, and in 2023—50 years after the crime—he pleaded guilty to Perlov’s. Diane Perlov was in court for every hearing, Catalano says. At Getreu’s arraignment for her sister’s murder, she asked that he be denied bail.

“The scarf tied around her neck that day was mine,” Perlov said. “I cannot walk alone through the deserted parking garage. I won’t let anyone touch my neck.”

While the Santa Clara County investigators were relieved to provide answers to the Perlov family, that feeling doesn’t last long, says Catalano. There’s always another cold case waiting to be solved. Santa Clara County has more than 100 cold cases, including the remaining Stanford Murder, that of David Levine, the physics student often described as “brilliant” by friends and family.

“We are actively working his case,” Catalano says—reviewing those old boxes of evidence, hoping for media coverage that will spark new tips, anticipating innovations in DNA techniques that could provide additional leads. “There’s always somebody anxiously waiting for answers.”

—Tracie White
EDWARD STEINMAN, LLB '68, was just 25 years old when he filed a lawsuit that would transform bilingual education in the United States. In *Lau v. Nichols*, he represented Chinese-speaking students in San Francisco, about 1,800 of whom were receiving neither supplemental instruction in the English language nor adequate alternative instruction in Chinese. Steinman lost at the district court and the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, although 9th Circuit Judge Shirley Hufstedler, LLB '49, noted the students’ lack of equal opportunity in arguing that the entire circuit should rehear the case. In January 1974, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled in favor of the Chinese students, finding that the San Francisco Unified School District had violated the 1964 Civil Rights Act and that “there is no equality of treatment merely by providing students with the same facilities, textbooks, teachers, and curriculum.”

Before Lau, “you had this notion of inequality as taking people who are the same and treating them differently—that’s the *Brown v. Board of Education* case,” says Steinman, a professor emeritus at Santa Clara University School of Law. “But there’s another kind of inequality that’s more subtle, which is taking people who are different and treating them the same.”

—R.B.

IN 1973, Dolly Parton released a song—named for a young fan and based loosely on a bank teller who had a crush on Parton’s husband—that would become the second of her 25 singles to reach the top spot on the country charts. The track, “Jolene,” has since been covered across genres by more than 30 professional artists, including the White Stripes, Olivia Newton-John, and Lil Nas X. In November 2022, another “Jolene” cover came out—from Holly+, an artificial intelligence–powered entity created by Holly Herndon, DMA ’19, who completed her thesis on vocal intellectual property and AI at Stanford’s Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics. She released Holly+, a neural network trained on her voice and able to generate new audio files, in 2021 as an experiment, offering others the chance to use her “digital twin,” co-own any art produced with it, and share in the resulting profits under a distributed ownership model. “I thought it would be fun to release a song spawned by @hollyplus_,” Herndon tweeted when she released the AI cover of “Jolene.” “Being from East Tennessee, @DollyParton music is everything!”

—R.B.
THE EARLY 1970s were a turning point for women becoming patrol officers, although major departments, from Philadelphia to the California Highway Patrol, were still digging in. Against that national backdrop, in September 1973, Stanford hired its first two female police officers, Kristin Henderson and Debbie Whittemore. Six months into the women’s tenure, the faculty/staff newspaper was still adjusting to the notion, reporting that “both have participated in investigations which required the use of drawn weapons” and that “they underwent 10 weeks of rigorous training—exactly the same as male officers.”

“I think our former chief really had a lot of insight and vision,” says Laura Wilson, ’91, who has been chief of the Department of Public Safety since 2002 and was hired by Marvin Herrington, who had also hired Henderson and Whittemore. From the get-go, the two women donned the same style of uniform as their male colleagues, rather than the skirts generally favored by other police departments.

But, Wilson says, “part of what strikes me is how similar things remain.” She notes the continued dearth of female sworn officers, both on the Stanford force, where they number just three of 20, and nationally. “Hopefully—just as the two who were originally hired 50 years ago signaled to other people that women can do this job and do it well—I serve that role for others,” she says.

—C.F.

THE WORLD FOOTBALL LEAGUE lasted just one and a half seasons, but that was plenty of time for it to become one of the most entertaining dumpster fires in professional sports.

Entrepreneur Gary Davidson founded the WFL in 1973 as an antidote to the NFL, which was under criticism from players for poor pay. Backed by investors with ostensibly deep pockets, the WFL poached some of the NFL’s best players, offering the then-largest contracts in pro football history. In the winter of 1974, four of its 12 teams attempted to draft five Stanford players. Only Bill Reid, ’77, signed on, joining the Southern California Sun.

The WFL team owners, it turned out, weren’t wealthy enough to weather the recession of 1974–75. Players grappling with bounced checks began begging fans for food and lodging. The Birmingham Americans celebrated their Super Bowl–like “World Bowl I” win while watching debt collectors seize their helmets, uniforms, and trophy. A mobster turned FBI informant tried to buy the Charlotte Hornets. By the middle of the second season, the league had folded, its central accomplishment being that it catalyzed conversation about player compensation.

As for Reid, he escaped with his dignity intact. The next season, he played for the San Francisco 49ers.

—K.S.
David Suliteanu wasn’t even thinking of the Axe. It was the summer of 1973, he was in the Sierras with his Theta Delta Chi fraternity brother Tim Conway, and something—perhaps the mix of mountain air, cold beer, and Conway’s approaching senior year, says Suliteanu, ’75—inspired him to lay down a dare. They should put an exclamation point on their Stanford careers by doing something big. Steal-the-USC-mascot big.

In a glory era for Stanford football, it was the rivalry with USC that really riled up fans with Rose Bowl dreams. What greater tribute to the Cardinal than to abscond with Traveler, USC’s beloved horse? Conway, ’74, loved the idea. But even in the giddiness of the moment, they couldn’t ignore the challenges inherent in kidnapping a giant white steed. Talk turned to a more traditional target.

By 1973, the history of pilfering the Stanford Axe was long, storied, and, to some, played out. The lumberman’s blade had debuted at a campus rally in April 1899, where it was used to decapitate an effigy in blue and gold. Two days later, a group of Cal undergrads seized it after a baseball game in San Francisco, sawing off the handle and spirited it across the Bay under the noses of searching police.

In response, scores of Stanford students descended on Berkeley in a midnight raid of the fraternity behind the crime. Doors were smashed and furniture upturned, but the Axe remained hidden.

Three decades later, Stanford got its revenge thanks to the “Immortal 21,” who used magnesium flash powder, tear gas, and decoy cars to intercept the Axe after a Cal rally. A less chaotic way of settling ownership was established in 1933: The hatchet would henceforth reside with each year’s Big Game winner. Sporadic heists continued, though not always with the riotousness of the earlier snatchings. In May 1967—the most recent theft as Suliteanu and Conway mulled the idea—the Axe vanished from Stanford’s student union so discreetly that people hardly noticed—or cared. “Good Riddance,” the Stanford Daily entitled its editorial response. “The time has come (or perhaps is long past) for Stanford to put aside the games of its infancy.” Conway and Suliteanu saw things differently.

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THREE WEEKS BEFORE BIG GAME, they made a scouting trip to the Cal student union. The Axe was behindplexiglass and protected by alarms—they could hardly just grab it. Inspiration came to Conway in the middle of an intramural flag football game. In the week before Big Game, the coaches planned to hold a joint press luncheon. What if Conway and Suliteanu used the event to flush the Axe out of its protective shell?

The two recruited Conway’s older brother, Matt, a student at San Francisco Law School with a noted gift of gab. On the morning of the press luncheon, the elder Conway would call the Cal student union claiming to be Cal head coach Mike White and saying he needed the Axe for a photo shoot with reporters. Then Suliteanu and Tim Conway—clad in borrowed Cal letter jackets (inconveniently, one was a baseball player’s)—would arrive to retrieve the trophy in their coach’s stead and simply walk out of the building with it.

The plan went sideways from the start. The three convened in a Berkeley coffee shop on that drizzly Tuesday morning and sent Matt Conway to a nearby pay phone. He was soon back. The manager of the student union was not in his office. Matt—as-football-coach had only been able to leave a request for the Axe with his secretary. With the clock ticking, Suliteanu and Tim Conway headed to the student union. Things looked promising: The Axe case was already empty. But as they reached the
manager’s office, the good feelings receded. A police officer stood by the door.

When the manager arrived, he could only offer regrets. The Axe had been moved to a local police station for safekeeping. “All we could do was just look at each other to say, ‘Now what?’” Suliteanu says. Then the phone rang. It was Coach White. Conway froze, thinking the real coach had been tipped off, but it was his brother again. Matt Conway’s first call had been carefully scripted, but now he launched into an ad lib audible to all. He didn’t care what needed doing, he told the manager, he needed the Axe in Palo Alto, and he needed it there soon. “And listen, I don’t want you boys to be late,” he snapped before hanging up. The harangue put the manager in high gear. The would-be thieves suggested he call the Cal rally committee for help.

Though too cagey to simply hand over the Axe, the committee wasn’t ready to refuse to help, either. Four Cal students agreed to meet at Suliteanu’s car on Telegraph Avenue. They would follow the pair to Palo Alto with the Axe. It was only as Suliteanu and Conway got behind with a plea to call the Stanford Theta Delta Chi house for backup. The interviewer’s ears pricked. He was duped months before. “That’s what happens when you do stuff like this,” Conway says. He took two steps and bolted.

A high school sprinter, Conway might have gotten away if he weren’t carrying a 40-pound Axe display. He was quickly tackled into the hood of a pink Cadillac, the Axe flying up the windshield and onto the roof, where it spun in place. Another Cal student reached it first, but just then, a bevy of Conway’s fraternity brothers wrested it from his hands. Matt Conway’s call had gone through. The Axe was soon in a car headed to the Theta Delta Chi house, where pandemonium was breaking out.

For all the planning they’d done to commit the heist, they’d given no thought to what came next. The fraternity was too obvious a hiding place. They relocated the Axe under Suliteanu’s grandmother’s bed in her Palo Alto apartment. Suliteanu wrote up a version of events that would run the next day in the San Francisco Examiner under the byline “the Infamous Three.”

THE WHOLE PLAN WAS ONLY FEASIBLE because of the limits on communication in 1973. They could impersonate the coach, confident that the real Mike White was incommunicado en route to Palo Alto. But as Matt Conway used his last dime to call for help, this limit became a liability. Conway and Suliteanu had told no one at Stanford what they were up to. Most of their fraternity brothers would be in class on a Tuesday morning, and no one ever answered the house’s lone pay phone anyway. As Conway kept the Cal car in his rearview mirror, the pair had no idea what the end game was.

In the parking lot of Ming’s Restaurant in Palo Alto, the site of the press luncheon, Suliteanu played for time. One of the Cal students wanted the coach outside before the handoff. Another got out of the car clutching the Axe. It was still drizzling, so Conway told him not to let the icon get wet, passing him a plastic case he’d been carrying. The Cal students struggled to get the cover over the Axe, so Conway offered to hold it while they pulled on the cover. “They literally handed it to me,” he says. He took two steps and bolted. “I’ve got it!” Conway screamed.

The following year, Conway was taking a water life-saving class when a crew of recent Stanford fraternity rushees pulled him out of the pool, drove him to Cal, and chained him in his swimming trunks to the Axe display with a sign saying, “Axe Thief.” Conway had to plead his case to the same manager he’d duped months before. “That’s what happens when you do stuff like this,” Conway says.

In the years since, the men have told the story hundreds of times. Once, in a job interview for an executive position at Home Depot, Suliteanu was asked to share his life story. He made a passing reference to the Axe theft. The interviewer’s ears pricked. He was from Cal, and he now had many questions. Suliteanu walked out with the job.

It was only in 2012—as Suliteanu and Tim Conway gathered for Matt Conway’s funeral—that the two started thinking of the Axe escapade as more than just a great story. The following year, they reached out to Stanford, its athletic department, and their fraternity with their tale, which culminated in a week of 40th-anniversary celebrations and reunions, including Suliteanu and Conway holding the Axe once more, at the Big Game rally. Stanford’s last great Axe thieves, “Infamous” then, celebrated now.

FINGERS CROSSED:
Suliteanu and Conway’s plans were foiled and foiled again, but they completed the heist with an assist from their fellow Theta Deltas.

In econ class the next day, Suliteanu scrawled 10 mostly ludicrous demands to the chief of police for the return of the trophy (“No. 1: $6,000 cash” and “No. 5: a fake ID for the one member of the Infamous 3 who is not yet 21”). Eventually, Bob Murphy, ’53, Stanford’s longtime sports information director, suggested a solution. The Infamous Three would drive into Stanford Stadium before the game to hand over the Axe for the Stanford football captains to pass it to the Cal captains at the coin toss. The crowd, Suliteanu remembers, went crazy.

A KARMIC REBALANCING was still to come. The following spring, Conway was taking a water life-saving class when a crew of recent Stanford fraternity rushees pulled him out of the pool, drove him to Cal, and chained him in his swimming trunks to the Axe display with a sign saying, “Axe Thief.” Conway had to plead his case to the same manager he’d duped months before. “That’s what happens when you do stuff like this,” Conway says.

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—S.S.
Fit to Be Tried

THE HEIRESS PATRICIA HEARST was kidnapped from her Berkeley apartment in February 1974; two months later, she robbed a bank with her captors. After she was taken into custody by federal agents, Stanford psychiatry professor Donald Lunde, ‘58, MA ’64, MD ’66, was one of three court-appointed mental health experts who deemed her fit to stand trial (a fourth said she would be unable to meaningfully participate in her defense). In his 2007 book, Hearst to Hughes: Memoir of a Forensic Psychiatrist, Lunde described meeting Hearst for the first time in the San Mateo County Jail (Hearst knew of Lunde: One friend had worked for him as a researcher; another had taken Lunde’s popular Human Sexuality course at Stanford). Lunde, who died in 2007, examined many high-profile defendants over the years, including serial killers Herbert Mullin and Edmund Kemper, and Dan White, who killed San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and supervisor Harvey Milk. Until 1981, he held a joint appointment at the School of Medicine and at the Law School; at the latter, he co-taught a course called Clinical Seminar in the Trial of the Mentally Disordered Criminal Defendant.

For Commencement Speaker, a Watergate Special Prosecutor

STANFORD’S PICK OF WATERGATE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR Archibald Cox as its 1974 commencement speaker was so popular, the university had to turn down more than 3,000 requests for tickets to the ceremony, according to the New York Times. The year prior, Cox had been fired by President Richard Nixon in an infamous event known as the Saturday Night Massacre, ultimately a catalyst in Nixon’s downfall. On June 16, when Cox spoke to the graduating students, impeachment hearings had only recently begun. Nixon was still in the White House.

“I have a sort of naive belief that right will prevail in the end,” Cox told the crowd in Frost Amphitheater that day.

Cox had clashed with Nixon over the latter’s refusal to release secret Oval Office recordings, some of which implicated the president in the Watergate complex break-in. After Nixon fired him, the Harvard law professor enjoyed a soaring reputation as Washington’s last honest man. The Supreme Court ordered Nixon to give up the tapes to investigators on July 24, 1974, which led to his impeachment. On August 8, just shy of two months after Cox’s Stanford commencement address, Nixon resigned.

—T.W.
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ARUN MAJUMDAR
is dean of the Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability. He is a professor of mechanical engineering and of energy science and engineering. He also serves as chair of the advisory board to the U.S. Secretary of Energy.

California has 39 million people. With industry from agriculture to tech to film, it boasts the fifth-largest GDP in the world. Powering up all that life and industry is a whole lot of natural gas—for the grid alone, enough to generate 105,356 gigawatt-hours, comprising 38 percent of the state’s electricity in 2021. (Coal contributed 3 percent.)

But natural gas—the production and use of which emits carbon dioxide and methane—is on the chopping block. With climate change bearing down, extreme weather events on the rise, and the health costs of air pollution growing, the state wants to lessen its greenhouse gas emissions, in part by dramatically increasing its use of renewable and carbon-free energy. Through decades of effort, California has already shrunk its emissions to pre-1990 levels. Now, a massive experiment is in the offing: getting to zero. In December, regulators approved a roadmap for implementing what the governor’s office calls “the most ambitious climate action of any jurisdiction in the world,” a plan that intends to make the state’s economy fully carbon-neutral by 2045.

The state has made an ambitious plan: 100 percent carbon-free electricity by 2045. Four experts weigh in on how—and whether it’s possible—to get there.
The effort will involve everything from reforming the power grid and adapting to electric vehicles to ramping up carbon-capture technologies and reducing emissions in building construction and operation.

One fundamental piece of the puzzle will be transitioning to 100 percent carbon-free electricity, which legislators set as a goal in 2018, with interim benchmarks added in 2022. In 2021, 59 percent of California’s electricity generation came from renewable or carbon-free resources, roughly a quarter of which came online in the three years prior. The state forecasts a need for 148 additional gigawatts of renewables over the next 20 years to meet its goal—a growth of 400 percent over current capacity. “The only way to achieve our goals is to build more clean energy, faster,” the governor’s office says in the plan.

But getting to zero can’t be done simply by scaling up production. Senior editor Jill Patton, ‘03, MA ‘04, talks with four experts from the academic, private, and public sectors about some of the main challenges in reaching the 2045 electricity goal, and how—working together—we might solve them in the years ahead.

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Stanford: Let’s start with a foundational question. Why is the move to 100 percent carbon-free electricity important?

Amy Guy Wagner: I think that you can answer that from a personal basis. I live in Northern California in the fire-risk zone. Climate risks and impacts have become much more real in my day-to-day life. And that’s true for many Californians. We’ve seen a lot more extreme weather. We’ve seen a lot more heat events, as well as fires and droughts, and even big storms. I think we all feel the impact much more directly, and the imperative is quite clear now.

Arun Majumdar: If you really want an economy that has net-zero emissions, getting the electricity system carbon-free is a necessity. Otherwise, you’re not going to get there. You have to get clean fuel as well—but carbon-free electricity is essential.

For the first time in human history, carbon-free electricity from renewables is one of the cheapest ways to produce electricity in many parts of the world, at scale. There’s an opportunity to move fast on this, whereas in many other cases—for example, trying to decarbonize the food or steel industries—it’s much, much harder.

It’s not going to be easy. There’s no sugar-coating this one. But I think it’s doable.

And why California?

Wagner: If you look globally, California has the means, has more of the political will, is actually quite blessed with natural resources, and has access to technology and innovation. California is one of the best-placed economies in the world to make the transition, so California should be a leader.

Jason Glickman: If you can’t do it here, where can you do it? There’s a big opportunity for us not only to improve things in our backyard, but to create a pathway for collective action globally.

In California’s fight against climate change, do you think 100 percent carbon-free electricity by 2045 was the right goal to set? How difficult will it be to reach?

Wagner: You could say that it is actually relatively easy to get to 80 or 90 percent carbon-free electricity. We will. It’s that last 10 to 20 percent that becomes quite a bit more difficult. Part of what the [state] did there in terms of the rule—it’s carbon-free electricity but not renewable energy, specifically, to give some additional flexibility to keep some of the conventional generation. When people think of 100 percent carbon-free electricity, the vision is of solar and wind. In reality, it is helpful to keep conventional generators that you see today—for example, the natural gas generators—and allow them to sit around, largely unused, to be the backup for renewables, either burning carbon-free fuels or with small amounts of fossil fuel emissions offset by carbon capture.

The key is to understand why. That’s because while you were originally worried mostly about how you were going to deliver and produce energy, you start becoming much more concerned about the reliability of the system as you move into a carbon-free system. You need all those generators running very many hours a year. But you need all those generators to turn on, or be able to be turned on, with stored fuel next to them, or you would need the batteries to turn on, whenever there is low sun, low wind, or a high-demand event.

The major sources of carbon-free power include solar, wind, hydro, nuclear, and geothermal. What are the challenges to fully harnessing the renewable power that’s available?

Glickman: One thing that’s really important here, when we talk about renewable energy goals, is we’re talking about an average over the course of the year. We’re talking about total production across all hours of the day for all days of the year. This is how California measures its progress in meeting its renewable energy goals.

California set a new record last year when, for a brief period, 100 percent of electricity on the grid came from clean, renewable energy. [According to California’s Independent System Operator, renewables generation reached 99.9 percent of demand on April 30, 2022; it topped that at 103.5 percent on May 8, 2022—still the record as of June 2023.]

We can choreograph the ramp up and ramp down of solar production on a typical spring, summer, or fall day very well. And just this year we added an extra several thousand megawatts of storage onto the California grid, which is a huge boon. We’re bullish on storage. We’re bullish on EVs to help absorb some of that solar production coming on and off.

The problems that I start to worry about are the ones of reliability and resiliency. I worry about compounding climate events like we had in 2020, where there’s smoke from wildfires that were lightning-caused, a transmission line from the Pacific Northwest is down. It’s hot, and everyone’s using their air-conditioning to try to to filter the air. You get these compounding factors that traditional electric system probabilistic planning just does not account for.

Yi Cui: Clearly, the energy storage problem is huge right here—particularly the storage problem across the various time scales. Day to day, we probably know how to solve for variation. But when you get to weekly, monthly, or seasonal
durations—this is challenging. This requires very low-cost storage because the number of times you use this storage becomes smaller—and then the cost, the capital investment, needs to be very low. Other than natural gas or coal, we don’t know what can get down to that low-cost, long-duration capability. That’s very, very hard.

Getting to 100 percent carbon-free electricity—we understand it’s super important. If you get there, very likely you’ve decarbonized 70 to 80 percent of the economy. Very likely we’ve still got to have some fuel-based generation system to provide reliability for the electric grid. If it’s a carbon-free fuel, fantastic! If it’s not carbon-free, then the carbon sequestration or capture idea or some sort of carbon-negative technology needs to come hand in hand. There’s already a lot of CO₂ in the atmosphere. We actually want that number to go down, not just maintain the current level.

On the topic of the grid and its infrastructure—what will be needed in terms of transmission capability? What are the sticking points that need to be resolved?

Glickman: We’ve been in a multidecade policy environment in California that said keeping electric demand kind of flattish through energy efficiency and other means is a good thing. The thing that has changed in the last two to three years is a policy objective to drive growth in electric demand [now that clean energy can be delivered that way]. It is a complete paradigm change in terms of the demand growth we’re expecting—call it 70 to 90 percent growth in demand over the next 20 years, when we’ve been basically flattish for the past 20 years, growing a percent to a percent and a half. We now have to find a way to get a lot more electricity into the demand centers over that timeframe, and our end-to-end process for planning for, siting, scoping and engineering, building, and energizing transmission, as a state—state agencies, permitting agencies, and utilities developers—is not yet geared up for that.

We were really encouraged by the governor saying, “I’m going to take some
action on the parts that I can take action on from an executive perspective to try and clean up and streamline that process.”

Wagner: One baseline thing to know is how difficult it is to build transmission lines, since they run through all different types of land, with different ownership, different permitting requirements, different endangered species, or other critical [issues] that you have to take into account. But the lines have to go from point A to point B into order to work within the grid network.

It has typically taken at least 10 years to build a large transmission line in the state, and I have many examples where it’s 20. So the challenge there is we’re going from spending of about $200 million over the past five years to a 10-year investment plan of $7.3 billion approved in the latest transmission plan. It’s an order-of-magnitude shift in a very challenging environment, where each of those transmission lines doesn’t necessarily get easier to build. It gets more challenging as you get into more constrained areas. There’s more activism around not wanting transmission lines “in my backyard.” People need to recognize this as a critical blockade.

Majumdar: And interstate is a little more challenging beyond that. There are lots of issues with building interstate transmission lines. Planning can be done, but the actual implementation in terms of business model—who takes the first capacity, who pays for it, how do you compensate if you go across a third state? These issues still have to be worked out line by line. There are jurisdictional elements—there’s local, state, and interstate. There is no universal model for this.

They’re trying to get a line from New Mexico through Arizona to Southern California. That, of course, makes a lot of sense—we could get a lot of solar that way. But just getting that approved for construction—the Department of Energy is involved in that right now.

As difficult as it is to get a clean-energy project approved, built, and up and running, I think, what’s the use if you don’t have the transmission or the storage to use it?

Majumdar: Regulatory reform for siting and permitting should not be partisan issues in Congress. There was an attempt to make a bipartisan permitting reform bill. It hasn’t gone anywhere yet.

Wagner: Transmission requires a lot of central planning. It doesn’t have an easy market-forces kind of process. So the broader the net is cast on planning earlier, with more of the stakeholders in the tent, the more likely you are to have a plan that holds and can accelerate through some of
the construction permitting processes. For example, it’s helpful to have some of the environmental stakeholders—like, say, the Nature Conservancy—in the planning process early, to understand what their critical issues are.

Let’s dig into the subject of grid-scale battery storage. First, how does such storage currently work? How will it need to work in the future?

Cui: So, the storage is really serving multiple purposes, depending on the time scale. The common one is—look in California at the famous duck curve [which shows the difference between consumption and available solar and wind power, aka net load]. Power consumption varies so much during the day. Starting at about 6 p.m. until 9 p.m., there’s a huge jump in consumption there. One purpose of storage is taking the solar made during the day for use in the evening.

But energy storage can serve many purposes. Here’s another: Say your whole night should be powered by clean electricity. Then you need storage. Your storage baseload—you’re talking about 20 gigawatts to continue for 10 hours. You’re really looking into a gigantic battery—200 gigawatt-hour batteries. This 200 gigawatt-hour battery is 20 percent of the world’s yearly production of these batteries, just to power California.

The cost of storage needs to be lower, and the safety needs to be outstanding. Recent events have shown that lithium-ion safety is far away from being able to meet our purposes. Once we have huge storage system distribution here and there, we do need to have low-cost, safer, much longer-lasting batteries.

What is a grid-scale battery? What kind of battery is it? What do they look like?

Glickman: They’re lithium-ion batteries. It’s the same cells you would see in your electric vehicle and, at a smaller scale, your consumer electronics.

I’ll give you a concrete example. If you go down to Moss Landing, there’s a major interconnection to the grid. We have there a mix of third-party-owned and PG&E-owned battery facilities. If you look at the third-party-owned ones, it literally looks like server racks. At another part of the footprint, we have about 180 megawatts worth of capacity of Tesla megapacks, which are not quite the size of shipping containers. A couple hundred of those units together comprise the full storage capability. In those instances, we took advantage of an existing site where there’s an existing power plant and high-capacity substation connected to the transmission system and a bunch of available land. In other cases, you would see it co-located potentially with a wind farm or solar farm.

Wagner: There are some historical storage systems that are still very important to the system today, like pumped storage facilities [stored hydro power], as well as direct hydro. Those create an amount of storage and flexibility for the grid. That was yet another California advantage—it already had some flexibility built into its system that made it easier for us to start with renewables.

When we look at the goal the governor stated, where we’re trying to get to 52 gigawatts of storage by 2045, is the assumption that this is mostly large lithium-ion batteries at big sites? What are some of the other storage options that will come into play?

Cui: I don’t think you assume it’s lithium-ion. It’s open to all types of storage technologies. People use lithium-ion, lead acid, new types of flow batteries. Pumped hydro. There’s also the potential for heat storage. And gravity-based systems. Whatever makes sense in terms of cost, and the relevant performance in the [system’s] lifetime.

Wagner: When we think of long-duration energy storage, we break it up into four different types. There’s mechanical—that’s gravity-based, like lifting up large blocks and letting them down slowly—and then chemical, electrochemical, and thermal. Where you get more competitive on a cost-basis to lithium-ion is with longer-duration applications and technologies. Lithium-ion at the moment is very competitive on a price point for durations between two and eight hours.

Majumdar: As your renewable penetration increases in the grid, the need for long-duration storage increases and the capital cost of storage has to come down. Lithium-ion batteries are fine for daily storage needs. But for longer-duration storage, which is needed for deeper penetration of renewables, lithium-ion batteries are too expensive, and we need cheaper alternatives, which are currently under development.

What are the most exciting technology solutions on the horizon?

Glickman: I’ll offer one thought and then turn it over to the group. We’ve got to do things that are not as exciting within the 80 percent—things like, how do we make it easier to integrate electric vehicles or battery storage at the consumer premise without having to do an expensive panel upgrade in a world where we don’t have an infinite number of electricians? In industry, there’s always this focus on a technological-breakthrough panacea. We will need that on the last 20 percent,
for sure. But I think we need to keep a lot of attention and energy on some things that don’t seem as technologically exciting: permitting process reform, good old-fashioned industrial technology in electrical panels, things like that.

Majumdar: I would agree with that. In addition, pumped hydro. There’s nothing sexy about it. It’s really cheap. The challenge is permitting. Trying to get a dam permitted for an existing hydro project to also do pumped hydro—you need to pump the water, and you need a pool—if those could be streamlined in some way, pumped hydro could be really cheap, in addition to what Jason is suggesting. And then there could be new technologies—Yi is the leading person in that.

Cui: I’ve worked on this for close to two decades. You need low-cost, extremely safe—working in all the temperature environments—technologies. I recently worked on one called metal hydrogen gas batteries that have a 30-year life span, 30,000 cycles, passing high safety standards, never catching fire no matter what you do—you can shoot a bullet at it, you can put it on fire, and it still doesn’t catch fire—and have high-energy efficiency. You can go down to 40 degrees Celsius, go up to 60 degrees Celsius. So very reliable. A system like that, having flexibility, allows you to run minute to minute, hour to hour, day to day, up to, maybe, 72 hours. Eventually, how long a timescale this type of technology can go depends on the cost.

Through the Doerr School, we just put out a proposal to the Department of Energy to see whether we can reinvent batteries to have 10 times lower cost compared with common lithium-ion batteries, having the scalability to go to 100 terawatt-hour scale. California only needs a few hundred gigawatt-hours, but the whole world needs 10,000 times more. We don’t have battery chemistry that can go to this scale. We don’t have pumped hydro that can go to this scale. What’s that storage mechanism we could utilize on a global scale? We need to think about that.

What closing thoughts would you all like to offer?

Wagner: I think that people often think of carbon capture and sequestration as outside of the realm of the electricity challenge. I think of them intertwined. That is partly because of those tail event [e.g., extreme weather] challenges. If you are able to have technology in carbon capture and storage that is safe, effective, and lower cost, it allows you to use your existing infrastructure in a much more effective and efficient way. Instead of building out for those tail events, you can actually use some of your existing infrastructure in a more productive way. But it requires innovation in carbon capture and sequestration, and it requires an acceptability of those technologies, which is actually a challenge in California in particular, because people would like to see more of a purist solution of renewable energy and battery storage.

Majumdar: Today’s grid was not designed to address the climate extremes that we are facing today, and we are likely to face even more in the future. The duration and the intensity and the frequency—as we go into 2035 goals of the United States, 2045 for California, I think that consideration of not how to manage today’s grid, but what the grid of the future ought to be, based on climate extremes, is a really important issue.

What do you think some of the key elements of the grid of the future should be?

Majumdar: If you have summer heat like the one we had in September of last year, some [excess] resource capacity is going to be super important. Sometimes if you discharge storage based on the market, that may not be the wisest choice to make because you may have a bigger peak later on that you’re not prepared for.

I think the [transmission] capacity development—say, reconductoring some of the lines to increase the capacity of existing approved lines—may be critical. And new lines are critical if you’re going to integrate more solar and wind.

One has to really look at it holistically, and one of the big challenges that we’re facing nationally, besides permitting, is workforce. There is a workforce shortage on power systems—engineering, construction, and all of that. If you have the permits, then you need the workforce to do something about it. But you also need the workforce to get the permitting done.

Jill Patton, ’03, MA ’04, is the senior editor at Stanford. Email her at jillpatton@stanford.edu.
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—Natalia Mehlman Petzela, MA ’06, PhD ’09, in Fit Nation: The Gains and Pains of America’s Exercise Obsession; U. of Chicago Press
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Jerry Emory, ’79; U of Chicago Press. Almost a century after his death, a dedicated young biologist remains a role model for conservationists.

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The Alumni Committee on Trustee Nominations is pleased to introduce four newly elected trustees.

**AMY BROOKS, ’96, MBA ’02**
of Darien, Connecticut is the National Basketball Association’s President of Team Marketing and Business Operations and Chief Innovation Officer, and one of the most senior business leaders in professional sports. Amy leads the NBA’s Global Strategy & Innovation group that develops and executes new initiatives and global strategic priorities to enable fan and business growth. She is also responsible for growing profitability for the NBA, WNBA, NBA G-League, and NBA 2K League team. As a student, Amy was a walk-on to Stanford’s conference-winning and Final Four women’s basketball team. After earning her undergraduate degree, Amy worked for Sun Microsystems in market development. She returned to Stanford for her MBA and later joined Bain Consulting. As an alum, Amy has served on the Buck Cardinal Board, is a student mentor, and a GSB admissions volunteer. She has been a guest lecturer at the GSB and is a member of a GSB Advisory Council ad hoc committee. Additionally, Amy serves on the National Board of Directors for Positive Coaching Alliance.

**AMIT SINHA, ’99**
of Hillsborough, California, is CIO and Global Head of Life Sciences Investing for Goldman Sachs Asset management, and has over two decades of deep experience in the life sciences sector. Previously Global Head of Biotechnology Investment Banking at Goldman Sachs, Amit leads a team focused on making investments in emerging therapeutics companies and in particular, earlier-stage investments with a global focus. Over his career, Amit has led numerous biotechnology IPOs and M&A transactions totalling over $200 billion. Amit, who holds an MBA from Harvard Business School, developed a passion for biotech after joining Boston Consulting Group. Today, he also sits on the boards for biotechnology companies MOMA Therapeutics and TQRL BioTherapeutics. Amit has been a key volunteer leader for Stanford in health care, serving on the board of Stanford Children’s Health/Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital since 2016 and strategic planning committee for two years prior, as well as recently joining the Stanford Health Care Board.

**MARISA BRUTOCO, ’00, JD ’04**
of San Juan Capistrano, California has built an exceptional legal career that spans two distinct paths in the technology and business sectors. As inside counsel, she has represented major companies including Apple, Google, YouTube, GoPro, and Amazon. In addition to training at Wilson Sonsini as outside counsel, Marisa has secured partner positions at renowned law firms Davis Wright Tremaine and Sheppard Mullin (where she currently co-leads its Technology Transactions practice). Marisa has served across the university on the Stanford Alumni Association’s Board of Directors, the Stanford Associates Board of Governors, the Stanford Athletic Board, Stanford’s LEAD Council, the Stanford Law School Board of Visitors, the Stanford Law School Law Society (which she chaired), and reunion campaign committees. Marisa has a particular interest in the intersection of athletics and ethics, and the dynamics of our multi-racial, multicultural world. Marisa was also a founding board member of the Santa Clara University-based Institute of Sports Law and Ethics.

**GIUSEPPE ZOCCO, MBA ’94**
of Anieres, Switzerland co-founded Index Ventures and Medicxi, two of Europe’s most successful venture capital and biotech investment platforms. Known for investing in “companies that are changing the world,” Giuseppe and Index have backed startups including Skype, Deliveroo, Dropbox, and Slack. Giuseppe has served on the boards of several Index investments that became public companies, including RPX, Synaptics, Moleskine, and Zendesk. Additionally, Giuseppe is a board member for several other companies, including Farfetch, King.com, and Sonos, and non-profit organizations including his family’s charitable trust, the Rada Zocco Foundation. Prior to founding Index, Giuseppe was a consultant with McKinsey & Co. in Europe. Giuseppe is a member of Stanford’s GSB Advisory Council, and served on the SAA’s Board of Directors. As past president of the Stanford Club of Switzerland, he was a lead organizer of the first International Alumni Weekend, and has been instrumental in connecting Stanford leaders to the World Economic Forum in Davos.

**BACKGROUND ON THE PROCESS**

Every three years, four new trustees are identified and nominated for a six-year term through a selection process administered by the Stanford Alumni Association on behalf of Stanford’s alumni body.

This cycle, the nine-person Alumni Committee on Trustee Nominations (ACTN) considered many extremely competitive applications for trusteeship, from a wide swath of the Stanford alumni community.

ACTN chair Michelle Landrey Cline, ’93, MBA ’98, presented the committee’s final recommendations to the Board of Trustees Committee on Trusteeship, chaired by Gene Sykes, MBA ’84, for joint approval. The names of those selected were brought to the full Board of Trustees for election at its June meeting.

Trustees selected through this process who will complete their terms in September are: Michelle Clayman, MBA ’79; James (Jamie) Halper, ’81; Carol Lam, JD ’85; and Jeff Stone, ’78.

The ACTN is made up of alumni volunteers with staggered membership terms. It presently includes Emily Alejos, MBA ’91; Fred Alvarez, ’72, JD ’75; Stuart Burden, ’84; Michelle Landrey Cline, ’93, MBA ’98; Cynthia Gomez, ’05, MA ’06; Andy Howard, ’98; Patty Kao, ’93; Phil Kim, ’07; and Tiffany Thomas, ’02.

The next application process will begin in late 2025. Visit alumni.stanford.edu/trustee for information.
FACULTY/STAFF
Jean-Marie Apostolidis, of Stanford, March 22, at 79, of cancer. He was a professor emeritus in the departments of French and Italian and theater and performance studies. Enamored with theater throughout his life, he later studied psychology and sociology and drew on his knowledge of literature and anthropology in his research. He was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1987. A colleague described two of his books, _The Machine King_ and _The Sacrificed Prince_, as "field-defining works" in early modern French studies. He wrote about _Cyrano de Bergerac_, Tintin, the cultures of heroism and victimization, and Ted Kaczynski. He wrote plays, essays, and works of fiction, and directed theater productions and short films. Survivors: his wife, Danielle Trudeau; and son, Pierre.

Robert James Madix, of Palo Alto, May 25, at 84, of ALS. He was a professor of chemical engineering and chemistry at Stanford and, later, at Harvard, who sought to understand the fundamental science of catalysts. He developed a new experimental technique known as temperature programmed reaction spectroscopy (TPRS), a transformative tool for interrogating surface reactivity. He received numerous honors and awards, including a Ford Foundation Fellowship at Stanford, was named chair of the chemical engineering department, and elected to the National Academy of Engineering. He was a standout baseball player as an undergraduate and a lifelong guitar player who formed a band with several Stanford friends. Survivors: his wife of 36 years, Cynthia Friend; children, Bradley, David, Evan, and Kaella; stepdaughter, Ayse Gurdal-Friend; four grandchildren; great-granddaughter; and sister.

Marshall S. “Mike” Smith, of Palo Alto, May 1, at 85, of cancer. He was a former dean at the Graduate School of Education. He held influential roles in education policy during four presidential administrations, serving, for example, as acting deputy secretary of the Department of Education under President Clinton. At Stanford, he championed efforts to increase faculty diversity and was credited with developing the concept of standards-based education reform. From 2001 to 2009 he was the director of education programs at the Hewlett Foundation. In 2019 he co-wrote _Opportunity for All: A Framework for Quality and Equality in Education_. Survivors: his wife of 59 years, Nicki, MA ’93; children, Adam, Jennifer, Matthew, and Megan; six grandchildren; great-grandchild; and sister.

Stanley G. Wojcicki, of Stanford, May 31, at 86. He was an experimental particle physicist, professor, and former chair of the physics department. His early research on kaons (particles made of three quarks) helped consolidate scientists’ understanding of the Standard Model of elementary particles. After stints at CERN in Geneva and working on the Superconducting Super Collider, he devoted his career to neutrinos. The experiment he led, MINOS, helped verify the phenomenon of neutrino oscillations, revealing that neutrinos have a finite mass. He was a disciplined athlete who ran for miles every morning into his 80s. Survivors: his wife, Esther Hochman; daughters, Susan, Janet, ’91, and Anne; and 10 grandchildren, including Janina Troper, ’25.

1940s
Patricia E. Bouchard Sprigg, ’43 (political science), of Lake Oswego, Ore., March 24, 2019, at 96, after a fall. She was a member of Ram’s Head Theatrical Society. She served in the Navy during World War II, graduating first in aerographers’ school. She later moved to New York to perform on Broadway and in summer stock. She was a story analyst and writer, working for MGM, 20th Century Fox, and other studios. Prior to Ronald Reagan’s governorship and presidency, she wrote a speech for him that now resides at Reagan’s Presidential Library.

After moving to Oregon at age 64, she volunteered at a high school newspaper and played bridge and golf, getting two holes-in-one at ages 70 and 80. Survivors: her daughter, Emily Iverson; five grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Ruth Imlay Botsford Heller, ’49 (English), of San Rafael, Calif., February 28, at 94. She contributed to the _Stanford Daily_. After graduating, she worked as an assistant to author Wallace Stegner, who crafted one of his characters in her likeness. She helped start Tall Pines, a cooperative nursery school in the Sierra foothills, and was a founding member of the Ploughshares Fund, an organization committed to the elimination of nuclear weapons. She gave time and energy to organizations like UNICEF, Harmony

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**Farewells**

**Longtime Hoover Director and Change Agent**

Donning a battered World War I combat helmet, Hoover Institution director John Raisian faced the Faculty Senate and called for “productive dialogue” to temper frosty campus relations, according to the _Stanford Daily_. It was 1990, and faculty got an early look at the wit, tact, and vision of the man who would lead the think tank over the next quarter-century, while Hoover’s novice chief got smiles and the start of a thaw.

**John Thomas Raisian**, the Tad and Dianné Taube Director of the Hoover Institution until his retirement in 2015, died on April 24 of kidney failure at the home he shared with his wife, Claudia Morgan, in Nashville, Tenn. He was 73.

During his tenure, Hoover’s endowment grew from $100 million to $600 million. The funds enabled the roster of senior fellows to more than double. Raisian organized the institution’s research initiatives into three themes: democracy and free markets; American institutions and economic performance; and international rivals and global cooperation.

“I never heard him solicit,” Morgan says. “He would talk about Hoover with such enthusiasm and at such length that a potential donor would finally say, ‘John, when are you going to ask me for money?’”

Raisian, who had a PhD in economics from UCLA, began his career in academia, held various positions within the U.S. Department of Labor, and served as president of an economic consulting firm in Los Angeles before joining the Hoover Institution in 1986 as a senior fellow and associate director. In May 1990, he was appointed director.

Historian and Hoover research fellow Bertrand M. Patenaude recalls how, in the 1980s, strife had roiled the campus over the institution’s failed plan to locate Reagan’s presidential library at Stanford. “His arrival at once helped calm Hoover’s relations with the university, then at their nadir. His genial presence brought a palpable sense of relief.”

Raisian ascribed his early woes to a chronic budget deficit, a narrow and aging donor base, and antagonistic faculty. “Ever the optimist,” says Richard Sousa, an emeritus research fellow, “he restructured Hoover intellectually from a sleepy think tank on the West Coast to an internationally known public policy research center.”

In 2006, President George W. Bush presented a National Humanities Medal to the Hoover Institution. Raisian accepted it in the Oval Office. Back on campus, he persuaded key donors and administrators at Stanford to support Hoover’s centrally located David and Joan Traitel Building, which opened in 2017.

“Planning Traitel showed his creativity, his strategic thinking, and his status as a visionary,” says John Cogan, a senior fellow at Hoover. “He took the ivory tower to the public square,” says Tunku Varadarajan, a research fellow at Hoover and a former _Wall Street Journal_ editor. “His great skill was to manage an institution teeming with gargantuan egos and world-class intellectuals—and to get them to come down and talk to folks via op-ed pages.”

H.R. McMaster, a retired U.S. Army lieutenant general and a senior fellow at Hoover, spoke of their friendship. “He had a generous heart. When he moved to Nashville, he gave me part of his collection of great cabernets. I keep them for when I have friends over, to tell them about John Raisian and all he did for Hoover and Stanford and our nation.”

In addition to his wife, Raisian is survived by daughters Meghan Tesi, Alison, and Sarah.

―John Roemer
Fund, and Ritter Center, where she volunteered for 16 years helping homeless residents. She was predeceased by her husband, Alf, ‘50. Survivors: her daughters, Miranda, Katherine, Anne Hellier Anderson, and Janet Hellier Harckham; eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

1950s

Dorothy “DG” Gifford Bancroft-Gowin, ‘50, MA ’52 (English), of Ithaca, N.Y., April 1, at 93. After moving to Ithaca in 1961, she worked at the Corner Book Store and later created the children’s books department at Logos Bookstore. She started nursing school at age 55 and was a public health nurse until she retired. She traveled the world with Road Scholar and did a Semester at Sea. Her interests included Greek mythology, Scottish and English country dancing, drawing with oil pastels, teaching ESL classes, Shared Journeys community groups, and her Episcopal Family Ministries women’s group. She was predeceased by her ex-husband, D. Bob Gowin, MA ’52. Survivors: her children, Sarah Gowin, Robin Gowin, ’80, and John Gowin, and their families.

James Edward “Jay” Niblo, ’50 (economics), of Pasadena, Calif., December 12, at 94. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon and the rowing team. He earned an MBA from USC and worked for Crowell, Weedon & Co. He was a devoted family man, raising his two daughters after his first wife passed away. He loved backpacking, barbecuing, and reading in the great outdoors. He was a lay reader and member of the vestry at Church of Our Saviour in San Gabriel. He belonged to, among many others, the Pasadena Rotary Club and Pasadena Bond Club. He was predeceased by his first wife, Albertina Rodi, ’61. Survivors: his wife, Jessica (Seiter, ’61); daughters, Albertina and Anne-Elizabeth; and six grandchildren.

Charlotte Lucille Ellis Thompson, ’50 (biological sciences), MD ’54, of La Jolla, Calif., May 27, at 94. She was a pediatrician, author, and lecturer. After graduation, she ran a clinic for disabled children, the start of a lifelong commitment to helping children with neuromuscular disorders. While raising her children, she opened a pediatric practice in La Jolla. Later, in San Francisco, she opened the Center for Handicapped Children. She wrote 10 books and taught UCSF medical students well into her 80s.

Polly Hoover Taylor, ’52 (sociology), of San Mateo, Calif., March 8, at 91. She contributed to the Stanford Daily. In 1955, she co-founded the Coyote Point Museum for Environmental Education in San Mateo, serving as a docent and fund-raiser there for 60 years and empowering children and parents to become environmental activists. To raise money for the museum now called CuriOdyssey, she pioneered several "Decorator Show Houses," a model benefiting charities across the country. She was predeceased by her husband of 62 years, Ted, ’51; and son, Denny. Survivors: her daughter, Kathryn, JD ’86, MBA ’86; four grandchildren, including Samuel Steyer, MS ’15; and two great-grandchildren.

Philip M. jelly, ’54 (undergraduate law), JD ’56, of Oakland, April 5, at 91. He was a certified specialist in tax law and represented many corporate clients and nonprofit organizations. He frequently served as judge pro tem for the Alameda County courts. He practiced law at Fitzgerald Abbot & Beardsley and, following a merger, became of counsel to Donahue Fitzgerald. He served on the board of the San Francisco Opera and was a trustee of the Church Divinity School of the Pacific for 30 years. He was an active member of San Francisco’s Pacific-Union Club, the Claremont Country Club in Oakland, and the Old Capital Club in Monterey. Survivors: his wife of 35 years, Patricia; children, Susan, Patricia, and Philip Jr.; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Michael Berberian, ’55 (geography), of Fresno, Calif., January 31, at 89. He was a member of Delta Tau Delta and the rugby team. He grew his family’s businesses, Berberian Bros. and Berberian Ranches, into a wholesale liquor distribution powerhouse and citrus ranch, respectively. After selling Berberian Bros., he helped to open Berberian European Motors, a Mercedes-Benz and Volvo dealership. He served on the boards of directors of Lockheed Aircraft and Stanford Telecommunications. He and his wife endowed the Michael and Barbara Berberian Professorship in Stanford’s School of Engineering. Survivors: his wife, Barbara; daughters, Susan Berberian Brown, Patricia, and Mary Guiragossian; seven grandchildren; and sister.

Thomas J. Dandurand, ’55 (history), of Sausalito, Calif., April 8, at 89. He was a member of Phi Delta Theta and the Stanford baseball team that represented the Pacific Coast Conference in the College World Series. He left Stanford Law School after signing a minor league baseball contract to play for the Milwaukee Braves. He later finished his law degree at the University of San Francisco and practiced with Bronson, Bronson and McKinnon. In 1971 he was appointed to the Municipal Court Bench in San Francisco by Gov. Ronald Reagan. Two years later, he was elevated to the Superior Court Bench, where he served with distinction until his retirement.

Developer of First Effective Treatment for Hepatitis B

Bill Robinson, ’89, PhD ’95, MD ’96, remembers the high school summer he spent catching ground squirrels on campus. His father, a Stanford infectious disease specialist and his namesake, had discovered they carried a liver virus similar to the virus that causes hepatitis B, so he tasked his son with bringing the rodents to the lab for research.

“In my father’s world, being an academic scientist was the ultimate,” says Robinson, today a professor of medicine and a rheumatologist at Stanford. “He instilled in me the gratification of performing experiments to try and find answers to unanswered questions—the importance of making a difference.”

The senior William S. Robinson, an emeritus professor of medicine and a pioneer of hepatitis B research that led to treatments for the disease, died of congestive heart failure in San Mateo on March 19. He was 89.

“He was a great role model both as a scientist and a physician,” says Harry Greenberg, an emeritus professor of medicine who worked in Robinson’s lab as a student in 1974. “He was also a great outdoorsman.” Among the peaks that Robinson scaled were Denali in Alaska and Gangapurna in Nepal.

According to Bill, Robinson had a passion for hiking the Sierras and a disdain for tents. On many backpacking trips, he ended up strapping on all three of his exhausted sons’ gear and carrying it to their next camp.

“He was a big guy physically and seemed formal, but he wasn’t,” says Thomas Merigan, an emeritus professor of medicine.

Born in Indiana, Robinson graduated from Indiana University and attended medical school at the University of Chicago. In 1967, Merigan called the infectious disease department of medicine at Stanford, asked Robinson to join him.

“He was interested in understanding new viruses, and my major interest was in antivirals,” Merigan says. “Together, we had a good time.”

Robinson’s contributions to hepatitis B research began in the early 1970s. Using electron microscopy, scientists had discovered what they thought might be the virus that caused the disease, which can lead to liver cancer or cirrhosis. Robinson used an ultracentrifuge to spin samples of infected blood, concentrating the virus, and then uncovered the enzymatic reactions that confirmed the scientists’ suspicion.

Together with Merigan, who had access to the antiviral protein interferon, and Greenberg, who was treating hepatitis B patients, Robinson established interferon as the first effective treatment for the disease. In 1976, the trio published an article in the New England Journal of Medicine about their success in treating an initial set of patients.

“What we did was show how interferon blocked the growth [of the virus], the disease was lessened, and the liver improved,” Merigan says. “It took another 20 years before there was any drug equal to interferon to suppress the infection.”

In addition to Bill, Robinson is survived by his wife, Keting Chu; children Allen, Thomas, and Sophie; five grandchildren; and his sister, Jean.

—Tracie White
in 1994. Survivors: his wife, Angelica Pinochet; sons, Stephen and Mark; and grandson.

Ian Cameron McAllister Hay, '55 (economics), of Palm Desert, Calif., May 1, at 89. He was a member of Kappa Sigma and the rowing team. Born in Manila, Philippines, he moved with his family to the Okanagan Valley in 1941, where his father was a member of the United States Army and worked as a stockbroker and later as a consultant to the military. After college, he enlisted in the Army and worked as a stockbroker with Sutro & Co. in San Francisco for nearly 30 years. He was predeceased by his wife of 30 years, Cynthia Lemmon Lagomasino, and son lan. Survivors: his children Kate Trevelyan Hall and Charles; stepsons, Brad, Greig, and Brian; seven stepgrandchildren; and sister.

Cameron "Cassie" Kennedy Laine, '55 (history), of Los Angeles, April 29, at 89. She helped to start Brentwood School in Los Angeles in 1972 and served as the director of development during the 1980s and 1990s, helping to spearhead the early development projects that launched the school as it exists today. She spent many years selling advertising for the Junior League and the National Charity League. She had a near perfect record attending both her children's and grandchildren's athletic events, plays and recitals, and birthdays and graduations, no matter the distance. She and her husband sailed the world with close friends for more than 35 years. She loved the Bel-Air Bay Club and the beach. Survivors: her children, Laurie Statton, David Phelps, '82, Tom, Mike, and Alex; 12 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Revend Luce Jr., '55 (biological sciences), MD '59, of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, October 13, 2022, at 89. He was a member of Alpha Tau Omega. Born into a medical family (his father was an orthopedic surgeon and his mother was a nurse), he became a dermatologist and often said practicing medicine was the greatest thing one could do and he felt fortunate to be a doctor. His patients would make a point of stopping his children to express their thanks for what their father had done. He was predeceased by his wife, Carrie. Survivors: his children, Rey III, Robin, Sarah, and Brian; stepchildren; eight grandchildren; and stepgrandchildren.

George Sterrett Wheaton III, '55 (civil engineering), of Portola Valley, Calif., April 3, at 90, of cancer. He was a member of Alpha Delta Phi and the soccer team. He served in the Army in the 23rd Armored Engineer Battalion in Germany. With an MBA from Harvard, he held senior positions at Cyprus Mines Corporation, NCR, Pacific Scientific, and Bechtel Corporation. Later, he was associate chairman of the Stanford Computer Science Department. He and his wife visited all seven continents and hiked the town. Survivors: his wife, Julie Wheaton Goldberg, Kathleen, '79, and William; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Mary Ellen Leary Barnard, '56 (history), of Solvang, Calif., March 11, at 88, after a long illness. She was an avid volunteer first in Santa Monica, then in Palos Verdes, and later in the Santa Ynez Valley. She was a talented cook and entertainer and hosted gatherings in support of the local hospital, YMCA, and Rotary Club. She was honored twice as a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow. She tutored high school students. She obtained an ESL certificate and taught English to workers in the semiconductor industry, and later helped patent water purification processes for the oil and gas industry. He began sailing in 1970 and the St. Francis Yacht Club became his extended family. He became a competitive yacht racer.

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competed on the U.S. team numerous times, and was involved with two America’s Cup efforts. He was a co-founder of the Big Sail, an annual collegiate competition between Stanford and UC Berkeley. Survivors: his children, Julie Hagelshaw and John; four grandchildren; great-grandson; and sister.

Thomas Peter Thiringer, ’59, MA ’59 (political science), of McLean, Va., January 29, 2022, at 90. When he was a child, during World War II, his family escaped from Hungary and spent six years as refugees in Germany. After emigrating to the United States, he enlisted in the Air Force. He attended Stanford as part of the ROTC program and worked for Lockheed Missiles and Space Company as a budget analyst. Later, he accepted an offer to join the newly formed NASA, where he and his wife moved to Sarasota, Fla. He was predeceased by his wife of nearly 60 years, Erika. Survivors: his children, Andrea Billewicz, Tina Bonorden, and Peter; and six grandchildren.

1960s Christian Steele Hinckley, ’61 (sociology), of Rexburg, Idaho, January 30, at 83, after a hip fracture. He was a member of the choir and was on the football and track and field teams. After graduating from the University of Wyoming Law School, he chose to practice in his home state. He served as a Big Horn County judge for 18 years and was also a prosecuting attorney and public defender, retiring in 2007. He was an accomplished pianist and vocalist and a devoted member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He was predeceased by his daughter Knissa. Survivors: his wife, Sarah; children Lisa Bentzin and Becket, ’92; stepdaughters, Carissa Keith, Talia Haughton, Alicia Tsukamoto, and Vanessa Cauffman; 24 grandchildren; and five siblings.

William Edward Mann, ’62, MA ’64 (philosophy), of Williston, Vt., March 28, 2022, at 81. He was a member of Delta Chi. He was professor of philosophy at the University of Vermont from 1974 to 2010, retiring as the Marsh Professor of Moral and Intellectual Philosophy. He served on the board of the American Philosophical Association, including nine years as secretary-treasurer of the Eastern Division and as acting executive director from 2005 to 2006. Survivors: his wife of 55 years, Dana; children, Margaret Campbell and Nicholas; and three grandsons.

Nancyanne Nash Moore, ’64 (psychology), of Edmonds, Wash., April 5, at 79, of metastatic breast cancer. After earning a master’s of library science from the University of Hawaii, she worked as a law librarian and edited books and journals. She was active in the League of Women Voters and in the Unitarian Church. She lived in New York, Hawaii, and the Seattle area. Nothing gave her more pleasure than watching her daughter grow up, graduate from Stanford, and flourish. Survivors: his husband of 55 years, Ronald, ’64; and daughter, Alice, ’07.

Cuthmins Catherwood Jr., ’55 (Latin American studies), of Bryn Mawr, Pa., May 6, at 80. After several years at the Butcher & Sherrerd, he formed his own investment firm, Rutherford, Brown & Catherwood, in Philadelphia, working with the same clients for decades and sometimes generations. When his firm was bought, he joined Boening & Scottgood, retiring in 2022. He was passionate about special needs children and was board chair of Easterseals of Southeastern Pennsylvania and the Catherwood Foundation. He was an enthusiastic member of the Confrérie des Chevaliers du Tastevin, an international wine connoisseur society. He loved backgammon, fishing, and chartering cruise boats. Survivors: his wife of 57 years, Susan (Williams, ’65); sons, Daniel, ’91, MA ’93, and Morgan; granddaughter; and two siblings.

Harvard Law School Professor and Social Justice Icon

In a typical bold move late one night in the spring of 1972, Stanford freshman Charles Ogletree and two friends drove up to President Richard Lyman’s house to challenge him directly over a dean’s diversity critique: that too many in the new cohort of Black students were activists, not scholars. The leaked memo had caused a campus firestorm. “Why don’t we deal with it right now?” Ogletree suggested. Lyman agreed to a meeting the next morning with the impatient young social justice campaigner who, characteristically, would go on to befriend both Lyman and the dean—and become a Stanford trustee.

Charles J. Ogletree Jr., ’74, MA ’75, died August 4 at his home in Odenton, Md., from complications of Alzheimer’s disease. He was 70. He is survived by his wife, Pamela Barnes Ogletree, ’75; children Charles J. Ogletree III and Rashida Ogletree-George; and four grandchildren.

Ogletree came from an impoverished childhood in California’s San Joaquin Valley. “He didn’t have it easy growing up, but he felt like the world was his family and it was his duty to serve them, and to do so he was both forceful and diplomatic,” says close friend Derek Tovler, ’75. Ogletree, Toliver, and Barnes all met at Roble Hall on their first day at Stanford. As a first-year student, Ogletree was elected chair of the Black Student Union. He also supported freedom for jailed political activist Angela Davis, argued for Stanford’s divestiture from apartheid South Africa, and, as ASSU vice president his junior year, pushed for the independent Black cultural theme dorm now known as Ugajin.

Despite the time he committed to his activism, Ogletree finished his bachelor’s in three years and spent a fourth obtaining a master’s in political science. He’d planned to study law at Stanford, too, until his future wife confronted him, he recalled, saying that the only reason he didn’t apply to Harvard was that he feared he couldn’t meet the challenge. “That was all the irritation I needed,” he said in an interview with the Stanford Historical Society. To his surprise, Lyman offered to write him a letter of recommendation.

“Now, maybe he wanted to get me out of Stanford as soon as possible—I’m being facetious—but he respected the fact that we saw issues differently, that we were will- ing to engage,” Ogletree said.

He earned his Harvard law degree in 1978, then worked at the District of Columbia public defender’s office. Later, in private practice, he represented notable clients such as Tupac Shakur in criminal and civil cases and Anita Hill when she accused Clarence Thomas of sexual harassment at his Senate confirmation hearings in 1991. Ogletree returned to Harvard to teach in the mid-1980s and became a professor in 1993. Among his many students were Barack and Michelle Obama; his several books reflected themes of race, justice, and equality. He served as a Stanford trustee from 1991 to 2001.

At Harvard, Ogletree displayed in his office a large photo of himself with fellow Afrodias college classmates, says Stanford law professor Ralph Richard Banks, ’87, MA ’87. “I took it to represent what he stood for as a protesters and a conciliator, and for never forgetting where he came from.”

—John Roemer

Harvard Law School Professor and Social Justice Icon

In a typical bold move late one night in the spring of 1972, Stanford freshman Charles Ogletree and two friends drove up to President Richard Lyman’s house to challenge him directly over a dean’s diversity critique: that too many in the new cohort of Black students were activists, not scholars. The leaked memo had caused a campus firestorm. “Why don’t we deal with it right now?” Ogletree suggested. Lyman agreed to a meeting the next morning with the impatient young social justice campaigner who, characteristically, would go on to befriend both Lyman and the dean—and become a Stanford trustee.

Charles J. Ogletree Jr., ’74, MA ’75, died August 4 at his home in Odenton, Md., from complications of Alzheimer’s disease. He was 70. He is survived by his wife, Pamela Barnes Ogletree, ’75; children Charles J. Ogletree III and Rashida Ogletree-George; and four grandchildren.

Ogletree came from an impoverished childhood in California’s San Joaquin Valley. “He didn’t have it easy growing up, but he felt like the world was his family and it was his duty to serve them, and to do so he was both forceful and diplomatic,” says close friend Derek Tovler, ’75. Ogletree, Toliver, and Barnes all met at Roble Hall on their first day at Stanford. As a first-year student, Ogletree was elected chair of the Black Student Union. He also supported freedom for jailed political activist Angela Davis, argued for Stanford’s divestiture from apartheid South Africa, and, as ASSU vice president his junior year, pushed for the independent Black cultural theme dorm now known as Ugajin.

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—John Roemer
Thirst for Growth: Water Agencies as Hidden Government in California, which was praised for its contribution to water policy literature. As a professor at UC Santa Cruz, she focused on sustainability in agricultural production. Combining modes of thought from political ecology to ecosystem processes, she served as a bridge between natural and social scientists in her department and continued to support students and colleagues after retiring.

Robert Graham Edie, 69 (history), of Roseville, Calif., March 21, at 75. He was a member of Alpha Tau Omega and the baseball team. His lifelong journey of public service began with a master’s degree in public affairs from the University of Minnesota. After relocating to Washington, he held various influential roles within state government. He also continued to support students and colleagues after retiring.

Teresa Lucille Waltz Kurfess, 73 (English), MA ’74 (education), of Menlo Park, April 7, at 71, of pancreatic cancer. She worked at World Publications, Kerox Learning Systems, and Crane/Auvil Advertising Agency before devoting her career to nonprofit community development, where she led fund-raising, grant-writing, operations, and goal-setting efforts. Among her numerous public service roles—including many at Stanford—she was board president of the Children’s Health Council and chair and director of development for the Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired. She was a gracious host and a voracious reader; she loved playing bridge and spent every summer on the shores of Lake Michigan. Survivors: her husband, Bill, ‘72; children, Doug and Elizabeth; three granddaughters; mother, Lucille Waltz; and two brothers.

Carl David Frost, 74 (political science), of Long Beach, Calif., April 14, at 70, of injuries sustained in a car accident. He was a member of Sigma Chi and played on the baseball and basketball teams. He was drafted by the Chicago White Sox, pitched for the California Angels and finished his professional baseball career with the Kansas City Royals. As the starting pitcher in 1979, his record was 16 wins, 10 losses, which was better than pitching legend Nolan Ryan. After baseball, he was licensed as a trader on the Chicago Board of Trade and, later, he returned to California to acquire a master’s degree in marriage and family counseling. He was down to earth and funny, and he freely shared advice with aspiring athletes. Survivors: his wife, Allia; son, Allan; and four siblings, including Rebecca Frost Buchman, ’81.

James Richard Cook, 76 (human biology), of Lander, Wyo., June 18, 2022, at 67, of early onset Alzheimer’s disease. He was a member of Beta Theta Pi and the swim team. He earned a computer science degree at North Carolina State University and spent eight years working for Northern Telecom, designing the 911 emergency system. He later switched tracks and became a rancher in Wyoming, where he spent 30 years hunting and horse packing in the Wind River Range with his family. He coached the Lander Swim Club for over 20 years. Survivors: his wife, Perry (Fletcher, ’76); children, Caryln and Ross; and two sisters.

Belen Patricia Barrera, 86 (communication, English, political science), of San Francisco, in April, at 58. She contributed to the KZSU radio station. After graduating from the University of California, College of the Law, San Francisco, she worked with organizations including the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights and the Alameda County Medical Center, where she served as director of legislative affairs and community advocacy. She was the policy director at Latino Coalition for a Healthy California, and she served as policy director for Alameda Health Consortium. She was an advocate for women’s rights, children’s rights, Latino/Latinas, and other underserved groups. She loved animals, traveling, and science fiction.

Oboist Who Pulled Back the Curtain

In the back of the orchestra pit at the 2002 Broadway production of Man of La Mancha, oboist Blair Tindall scribbled away at the pages of her memoir. “She knew that book was going to screw her freelance career,” says her friend Dana Pasewicz, a violinist who played alongside Tindall in New York City in the 1990s.

When Tindall’s book, Mozart in the Jungle: Sex, Drugs, and Classical Music, was published in 2005, the pill-popping, bed-hopping tale unraveled the classical music scene’s reputation for white-tie propriety. It then gained a second life as an Amazon Prime series, winning two Golden Globes. Backlash against the book damaged Tindall’s music career, but beyond the burned bridges, she found a new path.

Blair Alston Mercer Tindall, MA ’00, a Grammy-nominated oboist, journalist, and author, died of cardiovascular disease on April 12. She was 63.

Tindall began playing the oboe at age 8, when the band director at her elementary school doled out instruments. The double-reed woodwind “spoke my emotions more directly than my own voice,” she wrote in Mozart.

Although she was unexcited about a career in music, she decided to leave home at 14 to attend the North Carolina School of the Arts and, later, the Manhattan School of Music. Over a 25-year freelance career, she earned coveted contracts with Broadway shows, played principal oboe with the New York Philharmonic and six other orchestras, toured the country with top ensembles, and played for film, television, and radio soundtracks.

For Tindall, behind the concert-black facade were cocaine-fueled parties, misogynistic conductors, and an industry that exploited impoverished talent. “I got most of my jobs in bed,” she wrote in her book. Those jobs eventually lost their appeal. “The monotony of doing eight [Broadway] shows a week,” says Pasewicz. “It can be mind-numbing.”

Tindall started writing for the New York Times and the San Francisco Chronicle to study journalism. It was in visiting professor Dale Maharidge’s class that she first wrote about the ragged underbelly of her life as a classical musician. “I have students write a ‘secrets’ essay,” says Maharidge, now a professor of journalism at Columbia. Tindall’s draft revealed a fickle, desperate profession. Though she initially resisted the idea of turning the story into a book, that draft eventually became Mozart.

“I don’t think fame was very kind to her,” says Maharidge. Exposing the nefarious parts—and people—of the industry earned Tindall enemies; some critics dismissed her book as “sour grapes.” But she included the salacious parts so readers would stick with the exploration of the larger issues, she told New York Times Magazine in 2005.

Tindall wrote for Sierra magazine and other publications, and was a staff reporter at the San Francisco Examiner. In recent years, she studied film and TV development through UCLA’s extension program, and she and her fiancé, Chris Sattlberger, were working on a new show concept. “She was hoping to expand on Mozart and perhaps get more television work,” he says.

Over its four seasons, the series based on her book resulted in paid work for more than 800 musicians, Tindall said on the Empowering Musicians podcast in 2022. Tindall’s wedding was planned for May 1. She is survived by her fiancé.

—Kali Shiloh
Survivors: her mother, Belen; and siblings, Jennifer Jana, Hilda, Deborah, and Sergio.

BUSINESS
Stephen Compagni Portis, MBA '84, of Sonoma, Calif., May 12, at 65. He studied engineering at Cornell, earned his MBA, and began his career in investment banking. Later he founded and led several companies in the clean energy and technology sectors. A pioneer in the field of clean energy financing, he helped to make clean energy more accessible and affordable. At Stanford Seed, he was a lecturer and coach helping train CEOs of middle-market companies in India. He was a passionate advocate for environmental stewardship. Survivors include his wife, Natalie; and son, Julian.

EDUCATION
Anita Mae Owen Shoemaker Miller, MA '54, of Sacramento, Calif., December 16, 2022, at 94, of pneumonia. She spent her life advocating for women’s right to equal access to education and was named California Woman of the Year in 1975. She served as president of the American Association of University Women’s California division and in 1972 was appointed by Gov. Ronald Reagan to chair the California Commission on the Status of Women. She obtained a Rockefeller Foundation grant to study the legal and societal impact of the Equal Rights Amendment. Later, she became the executive director of California Women Lawyers. She was predeceased by her husband, John. Survivors: her daughters, Greta Munsill, ’77, and Karen Streich; 10 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and sister.

ENGINEERING
John Gary Wirt, MS ’63 (electrical engineering), PhD ’71 (engineering-economic systems), of Washington, D.C., March 19, at 83. He enjoyed a long career in education research, including serving as the editor of the annual publication of the Condition of Education. Survivors: his wife of 45 years, Karen; daughter, Stacey Wirt Taylor, PhD ’10; and two siblings.

HUMANITIES AND SCIENCES
Edith Henry Freeman, PhD ’62 (psychology), of Mill Valley, Calif., March 9, at 91. She loved adventures and collected friends throughout her life. She raised two children and later taught abroad and shared her passion for psychology and travel. She brought artwork to life as an integral member of the docent community at the de Young Museum. Her dedication to making the world a better place made her a mentor and friend to many.

Ruth Saxton Hunt Newman, MFA ’66 (speech and drama), of New York, NY., April 24, at 87, of septic shock. She studied at the Yale School of Drama before coming to Stanford. There she was a member of Ram’s Head, had leading roles in productions by the Stanford Players, and performed with the Stanford Repertory Theater. She also had leading roles at the 1969 California Shakespeare Festival and played Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon in Crown Matrimonial on Broadway. Along with her husband, she was a principal player in the British American Repertory Company. Among numerous TV and film appearances, she appeared in Ghost Story with Fred Astaire and John Houseman. Survivors include her husband of 53 years, Stephen, ’65, MFA ’67. William Thomas Magrath, PhD ’75 (classics), of Muncie, Ind., June 11, at 80. He retired after 35 years at Ball State University, where he was a classical culture professor. He previously taught at the University of Pittsburgh and for one year at Harvard. Survivors: his wife, Kristin; children, Heather, William, Kaitlyn, Robert, Brenanna, and Lane; 13 grandchildren; and three siblings.

LAW
Bush Charles Helzberg, JD ’00, of Aspen, Colo., May 23, at 52. He served in the Peace Corps in Mali before earning an MBA from Columbia and attending Stanford Law School. He started his career in investment banking at Lehman Brothers before shifting to investment management with Helzberg Angst Capital and Expedition Capital. He also founded Best & Co., a luxury jewelers in Aspen. He served on the boards of numerous nonprofit organizations, including YPO Aspen and St. Luke’s Hospital of Kansas City. He was on the Board of Visitors for Stanford Law School. In 2016 he published Charter Schools Work: America’s Failing Urban School Districts Can Be Transformed. Survivors: his former wife, Jamie; children, Oliver, Benton, Leo, Arthur, and Amelia; parents, Shirley and Barnett; and brother.

MEDICINE
Gary Heit, MD ’91, of La Honda, Calif., February 14, at 66, of complications from cancer. He studied psychobiology at UC Santa Cruz and earned a PhD in neuroscience from UCLA. After medical school and a seven-year residency, he joined the neurosurgical faculty at Stanford. His contributions furthered the field of deep brain and spinal cord stimulation, improving the lives of those with movement disorders and pain syndromes. He built and directed the functional neurosurgical programs at Stanford and Kaiser Redwood City Hospitals. He later co-founded a grassroots nonprofit promoting advanced neurological care in developing countries, rounding out work that earned him numerous humanitarian awards. Survivors: his wife, Jennifer; and a tribe of friends and family, including Alan Heit, Karen Heit, and Lori Lyons.

Eric Andre Davalos, MD ’12, of Philadelphia, May 21, at 38, in his sleep. Raised in San Diego, he graduated from UC Santa Barbara before attending medical school. He completed an internship in Stanford’s general surgery residency program before moving to Los Angeles for his radiology training at Harbor-UCLA. While there, he met his wife, and together they moved to Philadelphia for his fellowship. He brought out the best qualities in everyone he met, personally and professionally, and served as an inspiration to those around him. In his free time, he enjoyed watching and playing sports and seeing live music. Survivors: his wife, Jamie; son, Owen; parents, Angelica and Eduardo; and two siblings.

SUSTAINABILITY
Thomas John “TJ” Nicholson, MS ’76 (hydrology), of Williamsport, Pa., May 24, at 72. A registered professional geologist, he served in the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for 45 years, and as a senior technical advisor in its Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research for 41 of those years. His principal responsibility was providing expert technical advice on radioisotope transport in the environment, and he was the NRC liaison to the Water Science and Technology Board of the National Academies of Science. Internationally known for his expertise, he consulted on and wrote technical reports for the NRC on important issues, including the Three Mile Island and Fukushima Daiichi events. He co-edited the 2005 book Groundwater Vulnerability: Chernobyl Nuclear Disaster. Survivors: his brothers, Walter and William; and nephew, Andrew.

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“WE HAD THE EXPERIENCE but missed the meaning,” T.S. Eliot wrote in 1941 about the years between World War I and World War II. Recently, I’ve been thinking the same about my four years at Stanford.

Some things were immediately obvious: that the world was more interesting than I had guessed; that not everything I had learned in high school was true; that I would never live in a more beautiful place than the Foot-hills by the Bay.

But the meaning of some experiences didn’t unfold for decades. As an English major, I read Shakespeare’s *King Lear* at least three times, but I didn’t connect with the play until I became a professor and had to teach it. Marjorie Perloff, now a professor emerita of English, was a rising star when I visited her introductory poetry class during ProFro week; a year later, I took the class for real. Perloff was an early champion of abstract expressionist poet Frank O’Hara. At 18, I hadn’t experienced the world enough to recognize what he was writing about, and I hadn’t learned to appreciate the art of his seeming artlessness. He just seemed lazy.

In 1992, my senior year, Perloff put on a conference on avant-garde composer John Cage. Privately, I considered Cage a benign fraud. His most famous composition, 4’33”, features one or more musicians doing nothing at all. After 4 minutes and 33 seconds, the performance ends. It reminded me of the *Batman* episode where the Joker submits a blank canvas to an art contest. The judges connect his non-painting with “the emptiness of modern life,” and the Joker wins.

It wasn’t until my 50s that I made an effort to understand Cage. I was writing a book about creativity: Where do great songs come from? How much of creativity is just chance? It was time to give him a second listen, and to actually read what Perloff had written about him.

Cage’s approach to music changed when he read the *I Ching*, a Chinese text used in decision-making and a gift from one of his students. At its core is a table that assigns concepts to groups of six random numbers, for which Cage flipped coins. If you flip a coin six times, there are 64 possible permutations. In the *I Ching*, permutation 1 equals qián, or force; permutation 2 equals kūn, acceptance; and so forth.

From this, Cage derived his own set of rules to convert random numbers into sound. Most of his compositions are a series of random notes, of random length and random loudness. He wanted listeners to hear the notes: not as a tune but as individual sounds. Improvisation, in his mind, locked you into existing patterns. Liberation would occur when you stopped choosing notes for yourself and surrendered to the universe, which makes itself accessible in the form of chance.

You can study Cage to understand his methods and still not enjoy his music. Perloff, in an interview at the conference, hinted that he might be remembered more for his writings than for his music.

Her frankness was liberating 30 years ago, and still is.

David Wilson-Okamura, ’92, is an English professor at East Carolina University, in Greenville, N.C. Email him at stanford.mgazine@stanford.edu.
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